

Women Professing Godliness

Timeless Scriptural Femininity



*But (which becometh women professing godliness)
with good works. -1 Timothy 2:10*

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About This Book

This book was written by a Bible believing Christian woman, for other women who desire to follow the Lord and His Holy Word.

It is written with the King James Bible Scriptures in mind, with the attempt to back every major thing written with Scripture.

As with everything, please compare what you read, see, and hear with the Bible. The Bible is always right, but (wo)man is not always correct.

This book is broken down into seven chapters, which you can see in the Table of Contents. Please don't skip portions or chapters in this book, even if you disagree with them, as some pages and chapters build off of pervious pages and chapters. Skipping around can lead to confusion, or a misunderstanding of some things mentioned.

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May this book bless your heart as you further your walk with the Heavenly Father.

Chapter One

Do You Profess Godliness?



And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God
-Ephesians 6:17

God's Gift for You

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." - Isaiah 55:6-11

There will be a time when it will be too late. Make sure you are right with God, today.

"While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." -Hebrews 3:15

Do you hear His voice?

"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice." -1 Kings 19:11-12

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." -Revelation 3:20

The terms "Christian" and "personal relationship with Jesus Christ" have been bantered around so much, that for many people, they have lost their original savor. What is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Is it going to church? Is it being a good person? Is it via doing certain rituals, or following certain traditions? No, it is so much simpler than that.

Here's a question for you: If you died right now, and God asked you why He should let you into heaven, what would you answer? Perhaps you would say that you "did more good in your life than bad." That's not good enough, and that won't get you into heaven. God is perfect, so how could imperfection be in His presence? It can't. There is a correct answer, and only one. There is only one way. Read further, and you'll find out what it is.

First, think on this: Why did Jesus Christ come to this earth?

He came to pay for our sins.

Let's see if you have ever sinned...

Have you ever broken any of the Ten Commandments? Did you know that Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount that just looking at someone with lust in your heart is the same thing as committing adultery in your heart? Have you ever looked at someone with lust, other than your spouse? If so, then according to Jesus you've committed adultery in your heart:

"But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." - Matthew 5:28

"Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:" -2 Peter 2:14

Many people will say *"I'm a good person. Sure, I've stolen a few paper clips in my time, and I've told some lies, but I've never killed anyone, so I'm good enough for heaven."* Don't be so sure. Have you ever felt hatred toward someone? If so, then you are guilty of committing murder in your heart:

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." -1 John 3:15

If you have stolen, lied, lusted after someone, hated someone, loved someone or something more than God, etc, then you have broken at least 5 of the Ten Commandments. Do you really think you'd make it to heaven? Not according to God's Word:

"Know ye not that the unrighteous {sinful} shall not inherit the kingdom of God {or go to heaven when they die}? Be not deceived: neither fornicators {sex outside of marriage, or pre-marital sex}, nor idolaters {loving something or someone more than you love God}, nor adulterers {physically, or in the heart}, nor effeminate {cross dressing}, nor abusers of themselves with mankind {homosexuality}, Nor thieves {even stealing a pen or paper clip makes you a thief}, nor covetous {inordinately desiring wealth or things}, nor drunkards, nor revilers {one who assails with abusive language}, nor extortioners {blackmail, or wresting anything from anyone via force}, shall inherit the kingdom of God." -1 Corinthians 6:9-10 {words in curly brackets are mine}

But there is good news:

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." -1 Corinthians 6:11

We are all sinners:

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" - Romans 3:23

Even Mary, the woman chosen by God to carry Jesus in her womb, was a sinner, and in need of a Saviour:

"And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour." - Mary said this in Luke 1:47. Only sinners need a Saviour, and Mary also accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour.

We are all imperfect, fallible sinners:

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." -1 John 1:5-8

The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses us from all sins. Jesus came to this earth to die to pay for our sins. You see, Leviticus tells us that 'the life is in the blood,' and that it takes spilt blood to atone for sin.

When we choose to truly believe in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and to live our lives for Christ, then Christ's spilt blood cleanses us from our sins:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." -Isaiah 1:18

Jesus tells us this:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not

believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." - Jesus said this, in John 3:16-18

Paul gives us a simple step-by-step process on how to be saved:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." -Romans 10:9-11

Jesus is our one and only mediator:

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;" -1 Timothy 2:5

Jesus is our High Priest:

"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." -Hebrews 4:14-15

While Jesus is our High Priest, all born again Christians are kings and priests:

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." -Revelation 1:5-6

Under the New Testament, we need no earthly priests. Any religion or church that has people called priests is not following

the Bible. These are false religions, cults, and certain forms of counterfeit Christianity.

We are to follow the Lord and the Bible, not traditions of man:

"But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?" - Matthew 15:3

Jesus is God:

"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." -1 Timothy 3:16

If Jesus isn't the Lord of your life, then I hope that you will let Him into your heart and life this very moment.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." -Romans 5:8

Have you built your foundation on the Rock of Salvation?

"He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." -Luke 6:48-49

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation." -2 Samuel 22:47

Jesus is the way. If you would like to receive Jesus into your heart and life, then invite Him in. He loves you. He is not a respecter of persons. He accepts ALL who come to Him. Pray

to the Lord God, telling Him that you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, and that you believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the death penalty for your sins. Tell this to God in your own words, from your heart. Or, if you feel more comfortable, you can pray the below prayer:

Dear Lord, Thank you for sending Jesus Christ, Your only begotten Son, to pay the death penalty for my sins. I accept this free gift of salvation. I accept Jesus as the Lord of my life, and as my Saviour. I believe He died on the cross to pay for my sins, and that He rose from the dead three days later. I want Jesus to be the Lord of my life, and I want to live for You. Amen

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." -Romans 6:23

Believe, and Receive:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" - Ephesians 1:13

When you truly believe on Jesus Christ, you receive the Holy Spirit. You are sealed as a child of God.

If you have accepted Jesus Christ into your heart and life as your Lord and Saviour, and you believe that Jesus died on the cross in your place, to pay the death penalty for your sins, then you are saved, and born again.

You are now a saved Child of God, with the Holy Spirit living within you. Please get a King James Bible and read the Gospel of John. That is the fourth book in the New Testament.

After you've read the Gospel of John, go on to read Acts, and then Romans. These three books will bring you through the Gospel, the early church, and basic Christian doctrine. After you've read these three, then turn to the beginning of the New

Testament, and read it all the way through. After that, read both the Old and New Testaments.

Satan is the great accuser, and may attempt to make you doubt your salvation. In the front of your King James Bible, write down the date you got saved. This is your spiritual birthday – the day you were born again.

You should also follow the Lord and get baptized in water, via full immersion. A Believer's Baptism doesn't save you. Only faith in Christ saves you. A Believer's Baptism is an outward showing of your salvation. It symbolizes you being born again. It also shows your obedience to Christ, and that you are not ashamed to profess him publicly. When you are lowered under the water, it shows you dying to your old self, and when you are raised up out of the water, it symbolizes you being born again, as a new creature in Christ. This is called a Believer's Baptism, because, according to the Bible, a person is supposed to get baptized after they have believed on Christ. Anyone who was baptized before having faith in Christ just got wet - nothing more. It was not a Scriptural baptism.

Find a good church to go to, and you can get baptized there. If you need help finding a good church, I suggest you turn in your local phone book to the Churches section, and look for churches under the Baptist heading. If there is an Independent, or fundamental Baptist heading, choose a church from there. Independent Baptist churches are generally King James churches (but not always), and usually have great preaching, which will really help you grow in your Christian walk.

This is very important – read your King James Bible, and try to read from it every day. I suggest a minimum of four chapters a day. The Bible is your guidebook in your Christian walk. Check everything against the Word of God. NEVER just take someone's word for what the Bible says or means. Read it for yourself over and over. Remember the key Scripture on the

cover page for this chapter? It tells us that the Bible is our Sword of the Spirit. We protect and defend ourselves spiritually by knowing the Holy Word of God. Friends, the Bible is a joy to read. Commit to it, and get ready for a beautiful banquet in the Word of God, and feast on wisdom from on high.

You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit

From this point on, the rest of this book is written to Christian women, so the assumption will be that those reading from this point on are saved, born again, and Bible believers.

The moment you got saved, the Holy Spirit came to indwell in you – literally – He is within you:

“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” -2 Corinthians 1:22

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise” - Ephesians 1:13

“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” -Ephesians 4:30

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” -1Corinthians 3:16

When you got saved, not only were you born again, but you were also born again as a NEW creature in Christ. Your old self died, and you were spiritually resurrected as a new person. Certainly, you're still you, but now you are so much more, and you are now dead to sin:

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” - 2 Corinthians 5:17

"God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" -Romans 6:2

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." -Romans 6:11

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." -1 Peter 2:24

Christians are called to live holy lives, and to no longer sin. However, we are still in a sinful world, and can still fall prey to sin. If a Christian says they never sin, they are a liar:

"If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." 1 John 1:10

The Bible tells us that when we do sin, we are to confess it to God, and He will forgive us immediately. The Bible NO WHERE says to confess our sins to any "priest," or anyone other than God. It says to confess faults, so they can pray for us, but not sins. If you've sinned, then you need to do the following:

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." -1 John 1:9

Let's take a look at 1 John 1:8-10, to put this together:

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

In order to not sin, we need to walk in the light:

"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at

all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” -1 John 1:5-7

Synonymous with walking in the light is “walking in the Spirit.” The Bible tells us how to do this:

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” -Romans 8:11-16

“Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.” -Galatians 5:19-26

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light." -Ephesians 5:1-13

Christians are called to Holy Sanctification – to be set apart from the world. This means we are different, and others will see that we are different. We are not of this world, but of the heavenly one to come. We are pilgrims and strangers on this earth, who are to be winners of souls for the Lord. We must let our light shine, and live in such a way as is pleasing to the Lord:

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." -Matthew 5:14-16

"I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." -John 17:14-17

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" -1 Peter 2:11

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." -2 Corinthians 6:14-17

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." -Proverbs 11:30

As a Christian, it's important to help spread the Gospel. Some people have never heard – even in America. I didn't hear the Gospel for the first time until I was 17, and the moment I heard it through, I received it, and was born again. Praise God. Essentially, the unsaved are the spiritual walking dead. As Christians, we have a responsibility to spread the good news of salvation. It's not our job if they get saved or not; that is between the person and God, but we are supposed to plant the seed – spread the Word. Share the Gospel. Show others how to get saved. This is the Great Commission.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" -Isaiah 52:7

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the

gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" - Romans 10:15

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." -Mark 16:15

Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Some charismatics teach the baptism of the Holy Spirit based off of Acts chapter 19. I have found the common charismatic interpretation of this chapter to be incorrect. In Acts 18, verses 24-26, we see that Apollos knew the Holy Scriptures, but only up to John the Baptist. He fervently taught John's message of repentance and getting baptized as a special type of Jewish Mikvah, to symbolize them being cleaned from their repented sins. It was a form of ritual purity. This is what Apollos taught in Ephesus, because he didn't (yet) know any more than that.

Now, on to chapter 19: Paul finds these people who are zealous for God. Paul asks them if they received the Holy Spirit, and they said they didn't even know what that was. Paul then knew they only had knowledge up to John the Baptist.

Certainly, Paul explained the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them, just as Aquila and Priscilla explained this to Apollos in chapter 18.

These people, who were truly zealous for God, certainly accepted Christ and were baptized. They received the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them, and they spoke in tongues.

Tongues are not only received by the laying on of hands, as is clear from Acts 2 – there were no laying on of hands in that instance.

Acts chapter two was the Holy Spirit coming to the Jews. Acts chapter 19 is the Holy Spirit coming to Gentiles – 'to the Jew first, then Gentile,' as the Holy Scriptures tell us.

Outside of the book of Acts, we don't come across the gift of tongues anymore, until it is discussed in 1 Corinthians. This is where we learn that there are different kinds of tongues. There are distinctions here that are often missed. Without these distinctions, we could blur tongues into one thing, and this can lead to misinterpreting Scripture. The Scriptures tell us how to study the Bible:

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
- 2 Timothy 2:15

In order to rightly divide, we must pay attention to distinctions, no matter how small. For example, the word "a" in 1 Corinthians 11:15 speaks volumes in regards to head covering.

To interpret Scripture, we must not only pay attention to distinctions, but also be sure we are interpreting Scripture with Scripture:

"Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" -Isaiah 28:9-10

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" -1 Peter 2:2

Never base a doctrine off of one Scripture alone. It takes two or more witnesses:

"At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death." -Deuteronomy 17:6

“But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.” -Matthew 18:16

“This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” -2 Corinthians 13:1

“Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.” -1 Timothy 5:19

“This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” -1 John 5:6-10

“And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.” -Revelation 11:3

The book of Acts is the history of the beginning of the church. Put down the books by Ignatius, Augustine, and others. Those books are riddled with errors. Instead, learn about the early church from the book of Acts. That's what it's there for.

A doctrine that is in the book of Acts and elsewhere in the Bible, and has many Scriptural witnesses to it, is that a born again Christian has the Holy Spirit in them, and we are marked/sealed with it:

“That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” –Ephesians 1:12-14

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” -1 Corinthians 12:13

“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” -John 7:38-39

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” -1 Corinthians 3:16

The book of Corinthians gives us distinctions between different kinds tongues. Let's look at those. They are:

- Diversities of tongues (1 Cor. 12:28)
- Tongues of men (1 Cor. 13:1)
- Unknown tongues (1 Cor. 14:2)
- Other tongues (1 Cor. 14:21)

Some people take issue with “unknown tongues,” because “unknown” is in italics. However, the King James translators put it there to make the Greek more understandable as translated into English, and I believe “unknown” is correct. I would even go so far as to suggest the possibility that the translators were inspired to put it there.

The type of tongues in Acts 2 is clear – it would be Tongues of

Men. We know this, because the text tells us that each person of a different country heard them speak in their own language. The actual sounds coming out of their mouths is not specified. It could have been a heavenly language, or it could have been that they were speaking all of those language at once – which can only be done supernaturally. Since the gift of tongues itself is supernatural, this is a great possibility.

Now, back to baptism in the Holy Spirit. How and when does it happen? When the Spirit was first come to the Jews, it happened after salvation, with the speaking of tongues as a sign to unbelievers so that they would hear the Gospel – see Acts 2.

On the first gentile groups, sometimes there was speaking in tongues after receiving the Holy Spirit, as is the case in Acts 19, and sometimes there wasn't, as is the case with Acts 8 – a group of people received the Holy Spirit, but no tongues are mentioned. Later in the same chapter, we read of the beautiful salvation of the Ethiopian eunuch, and no tongues are mentioned there, either.

As is clear from early church history (the book of Acts) not everyone who got saved spoke in tongues.

However, every person who is born of God is born of the Spirit:

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.: -John 3:5-7

To be born again, you must be born of the Spirit. A person can pray the salvation prayer, but if they really don't mean it, then they do not have the Spirit of God, and are not saved. The prayer is not magic. It is our telling the Lord that we accept His

free gift of salvation, of Christ dying on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins. It's the *faith* that saves us via the grace of God (see Ephesians 2:8-9). It's the commitment to the Lord, and to live for Him, and walk in His ways. It's knowing and trusting in the Lord. If you don't know the Lord, then He will not know you. See Matthew 7: 21-23

We are sealed with the Holy Spirit the moment we are born of the Spirit:

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" - Ephesians 1:13

"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." -Ephesians 4:30

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" -1 Corinthians 3:16

How then, can a Christian be baptized in the Holy Spirit, if they already have the Holy Spirit in them? Ah, that's the trick. You are baptized into the Body of Christ, via the Holy Spirit, under the Heavenly Father, having drank into the one Spirit, the moment you were saved – you were therefore baptized in the Holy Spirit the moment you were born again:

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." -1 Corinthians 12:13

"He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" -John 7:38-39

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." -John 14:16-17

"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." -Ephesians 1:12-14

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." -Ephesians 4:4-6

This isn't talking about water baptism, as can be ascertained via the context. It is talking about the Spirit baptism into the body of Christ. When a person is born again, they are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is the baptism that saves us. Water baptism doesn't.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is NOT a water baptism. When Jesus began His earthly ministry, John the Baptist was baptizing people for the remission of sins. John the Baptist said:

"I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." -Mark 1:8

John was speaking about Jesus. The people in Acts 19 were baptized in water for the remission of sins - a John the Baptist baptism, but they were not baptized in the Holy Spirit. A Holy Spirit baptism occurs when one gets saved or born again/born

of the spirit (see John 3).

When Paul met up with the group in Ephesus, as recorded in Acts 19, he asked them if they received the Holy Spirit. They did not. They weren't yet saved, as they only knew the baptism of John. They only knew the Old Testament, and the preaching of John the Baptist. No one had told them of Jesus yet. Then they were saved, and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They spoke in tongues. The people in Acts 8 also got saved and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it does not record that they ever spoke in tongues, nor the Ethiopian Eunuch.

The Gift of Tongues

Some people speak in tongues, and some do not. Paul had the gift of tongues, but also acknowledged that some do not have the gift. He said that instead of wanting the gift of tongues, we should instead want the gift to prophesy.

"Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy" -1 Corinthians 14:1

"I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." -1 Corinthians 14:5

"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." -1 Corinthians 14:18-19

"Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues." -1 Corinthians 14:39

Do all have the gift of tongues? No. This is clear from the below:

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.” -1 Corinthians 12:4-6

“To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues” -1 Corinthians 12:10

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.” -1 Corinthians 12:12-14

1 Corinthians 12 makes it clear that there are all sorts of gifts of the Holy Spirit, and not every person has the same gift. Amongst the list of gifts is tongues. The chapter explains that we are each a member of the body of Christ, but are not all the same body part. We are not all the eye, and we are not all the big toe, etc. We don't all have the same gifts of the Holy Spirit, nor do we all have the exact same calling. Some people have the gift of tongues, and some do not.

Are the Gifts for Today?

Some churches teach that the gifts of the Holy Spirit passed away. Below is the Scripture they base this belief off of:

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.” -1 Corinthians 13:8-10

Some people believe that “that which is perfect” above is the completed canon of the Holy Bible, and that once we have the Holy Bible, we no longer need the gifts of the Holy Spirit, because we now have the Word to guide us.

I believe the above interpretation to be wrong. I believe “that which is perfect” can be none other than Jesus Christ. I believe the above is referring to Jesus’ second coming. When Christ comes back, we will have no need of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, because God will be here on earth with us, and His everlasting Kingdom will be established.

The above Scripture says before that “which is perfect” comes, we will only know in part, but that after the “perfect” comes, we will know in full. Do we know in full? No.

If you read further, past verse 10, you’ll see verses 11 and 12, which say:

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”

After Jesus comes back, all things will be made known:

“Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.” -1 Corinthians 4:5

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” -Romans 8:18

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” -1 Peter 1:5

I know which gifts of the Spirit I have, and I also know that the future, while it is known to God, is not known to me, and I may have different gifts during different seasons in my life, but only as the Lord wills.

Heavenly Prayer Language

I hear of people who pray in the spirit. Their spirit desires to pray things that they cannot express in English, so they do so in their “heavenly prayer language.” 1 Corinthians 14 tells us that if you do this, do it quietly, and don’t disrupt church, if you are in church, and if you do pray in tongues out loud, only do so if someone (or you) can interpret. Otherwise, this form of tongues does not edify the church or others. Now, if you have a message from the Lord and it is in tongues and no one understands you, then pray for one with the gift of interpretation to stand up and make known the thing, so that the church and others may be edified.

I pray in the spirit. I pray with words which cannot be uttered, and therefore when I pray in the spirit, no sound emanates from my lips:

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” -Romans 8:26

The gifts of the Spirit are still for today, but not everyone has the same gifts. This means that not everyone can speak in tongues. Further, different gifts are likely emphasized for different times and different localities. While some of the more outward gifts may not currently be very visible to many of us where we live, it doesn’t mean that those gifts are not exercised and

manifested in other localities. There are amazing testimonies from missionaries about the exercise of some of these gifts on foreign mission fields.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the laying on of hands, one's falling backwards, or one's showing a sign via speaking in tongues. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at the moment of true salvation, where one is Born of the Spirit into the Body of Christ, through God the Father.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” - 1 Corinthians 12:13

Many people talk highly of God the Father, and God the Son, but I don't hear much about God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, too. If you don't have the Spirit of God, you are not one of His.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” -Romans 8:9

Healing, Help, Provision, Protection, and Blessings, in Jesus' Name

Jesus said:

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” -John 15:7

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” -Matthew 7:7-8

With the two above Scriptures, and the many others that teach the above, we see that if we abide in Christ, and His Words

(which we learn from reading the Bible) are in us, then we can ask, seek, and knock, and what we are asking for will be given us. NOTE: Ask, Seek, Knock – A-S-K.

This includes good health and healing. We ask for this, in Jesus name. We can ask for healing, and we can pray for the healing of others.

While there are more wonderful New Testament Scriptures about the above, there are also some great Old Testament Scriptures on this. Two Psalms come to mind, and I'd like to share them with you:

My favorite Psalm – Psalm 37:

“Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. The Lord shall laugh at him: for he seeth that his day is coming. The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous

man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the Lord upholdeth the righteous. The Lord knoweth the days of the upright: and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. For the Lord loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. The Lord will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble. And the Lord shall help them, and deliver them: he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him."

Psalm 91:

"He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation."

The promises to the children of God in the Bible are many. We simply need to walk the Christian walk, as laid out in the Word, and claim those promises. Our Heavenly Father loves us. He is a personal God who cares about us. He is not some impersonal being who created us and went away. A born again Christian has a close relationship with Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father. God is not impersonal. He cares for us.

"Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." -1 Peter 5:7

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.” -Matthew 21:21

Matthew 21:21 is describing the gift of faith, as described in 1 Corinthians 12.

Faith in Christ is what saves. If you have the gift of faith, then you can literally move mountains. Remember, though, that love is the most important:

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” -1 Corinthians 13:2

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The word of wisdom:

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom” -1 Corinthians 12:8a

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” - James 1:5-6

The word of knowledge:

“to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit” -1 Corinthians 12:8b

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him” -Ephesians 1:17

The gift of faith:

This is not just saving faith, but faith as a grain of mustard seed – which is enough to move a mountain:

“To another faith by the same Spirit” -1 Corinthians 12:9a

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” -1 Corinthians 13:2

Gifts of healing:

“to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit” -1 Corinthians 12:9b

“Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” - James 5:13-16

The working of miracles:

“To another the working of miracles” 1 Corinthians 10a

“And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.” -Acts 6:8

Prophecy:

“to another prophecy” -1 Corinthians 12:10b

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith” -Romans 12:6

Discerning spirits:

“to another discerning of spirits” -1 Corinthians 12:10c

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.” -1 John 4:1

Tongues (speaking or interpreting):

“to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues” -1 Corinthians 12:10d

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?” -1 Corinthians 14:4-6

Now a verse that trips a lot of people up – doing greater works than Jesus:

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” -John 14:12

Christians with the Holy Spirit in them can do greater works, just as promised above, but this does not mean we will do ALL the works Jesus did. Jesus had the Holy Spirit without measure. Christians have gifts in measure, meaning we have certain gifts from the Holy Spirit, but not every gift:

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness." -Romans 12:3-8

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." -1 Corinthians 12:4-11

We all don't have every gift of the Spirit, and we all don't have the same gift(s) of the Holy Spirit. We are all members of the Body, but we aren't all the same body part. Born again Christians make up the Body of Christ on the earth. As the Body of Christ, born again Christians can do greater works than Christ did, during His earthly ministry at His first coming.

If we live in accordance to the will of God (John 14:15), we have this promise:

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” -John 14:13-14

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” -John 15:7

Thank you, Lord God.

Chapter Two

Wives Professing Godliness



*The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. –
Proverbs 31:11*

His Helpmeet, at his Side

We read in the Holy Bible that Adam was created from the dust of the earth, and then that God breathed into Adam, and Adam became a living soul. Eve was made in a different, and more special way. Before we get into that, it is important to mention that both Adam and Eve are created in the image of God:

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.” – Genesis 1:27

While both man and woman were created in the image of God, man is the glory of God, and woman is the glory of man:

“For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.” –1 Corinthians 11:7

God created Eve in a very special way:

“And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had

taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” -Genesis 2:21-24

Woman was created from man’s side, and the wife is to stand by her man.

Why did God create Eve?

We can gather the answer to that from reading carefully over the creation account some more. After God created everything, the Bible says ‘it was good,’ however, there was one thing that was ‘not good:’

“And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” -Genesis 2:18

Ladies, we were created to be the glory of our husbands, and to be their helpers. We are literally God’s gift to man. This is part of our created function. It is not belittling, and it does not make us any less of a person than a man. The

world will lie and say this is degrading, but the world is wrong, and the Bible is always right. Amen?

The Bible tells us in many places that wives are to be submissive to their husbands, and that husbands are the heads of their wives and kids. This does not mean that women are inferior to men. God is not a respecter of persons, and that includes gender:

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons” -Acts 10:34

“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” -Galatians 3:28

Wives being submissive helpmeets to their husbands does not make women any less in God's eyes, and it shouldn't in anyone else's eyes, either. But alas, Satan knows if he can tear apart families, he can destroy the chances of many people in future generations of getting saved. This, my friends, is the very root and true spiritual beginning of the poison called feminism. When you truly look at the concepts of feminism, you see that it is actually boiled down to this: women trying to live like men.

Men and women have different God-given roles. This is natural.

Think about the Holy Trinity of God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all God, and not one person of the Trinity is less of a God than the other two members. However, each member of the Trinity has a different role. The tri-personhood of God does not go around doing identical things. For example, let us return to the creation account, and see the different roles of the Trinity there...

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” -Genesis 1:1-3

First, let us quickly define “God said,” above, with other Scriptures:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” -John 1:1

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” –John 1:14

*“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” –
1 John 5:7*

I believe that in the case of Genesis 1:1-3 – “God said,” is Jesus Christ. God created all things by Jesus Christ:

*“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ” –
Ephesians 3:9*

Now, back to our creation Trinity Scripture:

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.” –Genesis 1:1-3

God = God the Father

Spirit of God = God the Holy Spirit

God said = Jesus Christ, God the Son

We clearly see three roles of the persons of the Trinity in the creation account.

Just as the Trinity of God is all God, and not one person of the Trinity is any better or more God than another, so it is with the family.

The Husband is not better than the wife, the wife is no better than her children, and the children are no better than their parents.

The Husband represents Christ, the wife represents the church, and the children represent the fruit of the union of Christ with the church – they represent new souls getting saved.

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he

might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” -Ephesians 5:22-32

Through a study of the Scriptural family structure, we see the Gospel message laid out. We also see that God never intended homosexuality and lesbianism.

Not only do we have clear Scriptures against cross-dressing and sodomy, but we have the biblical familial structure to give us an object lesson, as well.

Homosexuality creates no fruits – Christ + Christ does not equal new souls getting saved.

Lesbianism creates no fruits – Church + Church does not equal new souls getting saved.

The Bible calls homosexuality “unnatural,” and that is because the above concept is not only true in the spiritual, but also in the natural.

Naturally, without the help of science and doctors:

Man + Man does not produce children.

Woman + Woman does not produce children.

Man and woman were commanded to be fruitful and multiply. However, some married couples are not able to have children. It's possible that their fruit is not to come from their loins, but via adopting children, who desperately need a Christian home, and loving parents.

For other couples, perhaps they are not to have physical children at all, but are to put all their focus and energy into bringing about spiritual children.

We can gather from the Bible that when you lead someone to Christ, that person could be considered your child, spiritually. However, this does not mean you are at all responsible for their walk, and if they live the Christian life or not. However, you should direct them to the Scriptures, and be there for them, when they have questions, etc.

“I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.” -1 Corinthians 4:14-17

We need to be a good example for new Christians, especially those we’ve led to Christ. Let us look to Paul, who wrote the above, and follow his example, in helping us to be an example to others.

The Titus 2 Woman

“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” -Titus 2:4-5

A Titus 2 woman isn't limited to just verses four and five of Titus chapter 2. The whole chapter is full of nuggets of

wisdom. Let's study the Titus 2 woman a bit, and see what we find:

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:"
-Verse 1

This is for all Christians. We are not just to believe sound doctrine, but we are also to SPEAK it.

"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience." -Verse 2

The above is a great list for older Christian men to meditate on.

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;" -Verse 3

The above is for older Christian women, but the younger should follow the above list as well, since all of these things are listed elsewhere in the Scriptures for ALL Christians to follow.

- Her behavior should be that which becomes holiness

- She is not to falsely accuse others

- She is not to be given to much wine. Did you know that just a few ounces of alcohol can alter the brain chemistry? This is why we hear of people having just a bit of wine, etc, to "relax" them. This is an effect on the brain, even though the person is not yet buzzed. Just a few ounces of liquor lowers one's inhibitions. Even though a buzz isn't yet felt, the door has been cracked open, and that may possibly be enough for our adversary, the devil, to creep in. However, the above verse says "not given to MUCH wine." Drinking is not a sin - altering one's mind, IS. This includes lowering one's inhibitions, buzzing, getting drunk, taking mind altering drugs and medications, etc. The Bible is clear that we are to be sober. This is sober in mind, in behavior, and sober from substances:

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" -1 Peter 5:8

We MUST be clear minded.

- Teachers of good things. The older Christian women are to teach and help the younger Christian women. They can

pass on childrearing knowledge, homemaking tips, biblical doctrines and the woman's role, etc.

"That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." - Verses 4 and 5

Christian women are to:

- Be sober*
- Love their husbands - this isn't love just as a feeling, but love in action - such as the "charity" of 1 Corinthians 13. Love is not earned; it is freely given. Your husband should know without a doubt that you love him, because of your actions, and the way you behave towards him.*
- Love their children - spend time with them, talk with them, cherish them, mother them the way you know a Christian mother should.*
- Discreet - Not loud mouthed, rude, etc. Think before you speak; think before you act*

- Chaste - Modest, innocently feminine, doesn't tell raunchy jokes, etc.

- Keepers at home – to be a keeper at home, she must be AT home. She takes care of her family. She feeds them well-prepared meals, she keeps the home clean and inviting, etc. This is her job. Working outside of the home is not being a keeper AT home. Notice that love of husband and children comes before "keepers at home." You can keep an immaculate home, but if you aren't showing love to your family, your home will come across as cold and hard. Home should be comfy, inviting, and loving.

- Good. That word, for a Christian, carries a lot of meaning. As Christians, we are temples of the Holy Spirit of God. We can pray to the Father in Jesus' name, to help us listen to the Holy Spirit. We need to discern between what our hearts say, and what the Holy Spirit says. The Holy Spirit within us helps us know what is good. Between the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and prayer, a Christian can know what is good. The Bible says ALL the law is fulfilled towards others, by loving one another, and treating others as we wish to be treated. That is good – very good. This is something we must remind ourselves of, on a daily basis, because we are selfish creatures. We are trapped in this

carnal world, trying to walk in the spirit. It is an ongoing battle. Good – that carries a lot for a Christian.

– Obedient to their own husbands – Notice this is mentioned separate from "love their husbands." This is so important, that it demands more attention. One of the curses on women, from the Garden of Eden, is "and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee." Genesis 3:16b

Woman was originally created to be man's helpmeet, and she did it naturally. After the fall, it was no longer so natural to her. She wanted to rule, yet she still had/has the desire for her husband to step up and take the reigns. When the husband does so, she sometimes struggles with wanting to take the reigns away, and do things her way, which she may deem as better. This is part of the woman's curse. She wants her husband to lead the family, but she wants him to do it her way. That doesn't work. A Christian woman must submit to her husband. She must be obedient to him. Notice also, the above says "obedient to their OWN husbands." Women are not to be ruled by other men. While she is single, she is under her father's authority. If she is on her own, she is under Christ's. (She is always under Christ's authority, however). When she is married, she is to be under her husband's authority, and his only. He is her head.

- Look at this --> "that the word of God be not blasphemed" WOW! These instructions to the Christian woman are so important, that to break them, could be to blaspheme the Word of God. What a warning and motivation for us.

"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded." -Verse 6

All Christians, in several places in the Bible, are exhorted to be sober, and sober minded. Here is a reminder to the younger men, who are more apt to drink, or rage.

The remaining verses are to all Christians. Take the time to write or make a mental list of everything listed in all of Titus chapter 2. Take a look at the wealth of wisdom in the below - the rest of this chapter:

"In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our

Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." -Verses 7-15

While the book of Titus was written instructions to Titus, from the apostle Paul, its instructions are also for all Christians, especially those called to ministry.

The Proverbs 31 Woman

There are some amazing femininity, mothering, and wifedom Scriptures in the Bible. Some of the favorites seem to be in Titus 2, Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 11, 1 Corinthians 14, and 1 Timothy 2, but there are many more, including in the Old Testament.

Probably one of the most famous scriptures of this genre, would be Proverbs 31:10-31.

"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies." -Verse 10

Most new bible versions mess up this passage, starting with the above verse. Some corrupted bible versions say "excellent wife." A Virtuous Woman is so much more than just some "excellent wife." Who can FIND a virtuous woman? Men should seek to find a virtuous woman to take as a wife, because she will not just be an excellent wife, but also a virtuous one.

Excellent means, according to Dictionary.com, - "possessing outstanding quality or superior merit; remarkably good."

That sounds good, but virtuous surpasses that. Virtuous includes excellence, and more. Virtuous means "conforming to moral and ethical principles; morally excellent; upright," according to Dictionary.com.

A virtuous woman of the Bible is more than the above definition, because her morals conform to the high standards given by God.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." -Verses 11 and 12

For the husband to trust safely in the wife, she needs to speak well of him to others, and not complain. She needs to be patient, kind, and loving to him, and not nag. If she is a hinter to her husband, she needs to stop, and be direct. A virtuous woman has a husband who safely trusts her. She doesn't spend his hard earned money on frivolous things, she does good to and for her husband. She doesn't get impatient with him, take anger out on him, or belittle him when she's had a bad day. She submits to his authority, and loves him.

"She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands." -Verse 13

The Virtuous Woman is a creative and hard worker. She seeks out good materials at good prices, and uses those materials to make what's needed for her family. Not all of us are good at sewing, and not all of us enjoy it. Today, we don't need to make clothes. Often it's cheaper to shop the clearance racks at Wal-Mart, and then modify those already made pieces of clothing for the family. Perhaps she adds length to a dress, or hems a pair of pants for her children. If you enjoy sewing, and are good at it, then this is great. If not, don't beat yourself up over it. Just find and utilize good deals, and be ready to make some alterations to

clothing here and there - sewing on buttons, repairing holes, hemming up too-long garments, etc.

"She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar." -Verse 14

She prepares healthy food for her family, and some of her meals utilize what she doesn't grow, or what is readily available. She will bring in certain foods from afar. Now, we can do this via ordering over the Internet, or visiting specific stores. I know many ladies who order bulk wheat over the Internet, and then grind it and make it into bread.

"She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens." -Verse 15

I do not believe this means she is to get up this early every day. "Meat for the household" doesn't just mean meat. In the Bible, unless context shows otherwise, 'meat' often just means food. In Leviticus, we often see 'meat' in reference to grains, for example. Sometimes mama needs to get up before the crack of dawn to prepare food. This is especially so for special holiday feasts, or other occasions. The other day, we had two very early dentist appointments, so I had to get up while it was still very much dark, to get breakfast going, and get some chores handled. I awoke the kids and

got them ready after sunrise, and they had a nice, warm breakfast waiting at the table for them. Do I do this every day? Absolutely not! The Psalms tell us that God gives us sleep, and I need my sleep.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. –Psalm 127:2

"She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms." –Verses 16 and 17

The virtuous wife is frugal and smart. She finds ways to make her husband's hard earned dollar stretch. If she finds a way to significantly save money and bring in more healthy food for the family, she does it– just as long as her husband agrees. Remember, the heart of her husband safely trusts in her. Further, she is strong. She knows she must keep her body strong and healthy, so that she can better serve her family.

"She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night." –Verse 18

This verse is another reason why I know the virtuous woman doesn't always have to get up while it is still dark. How can she do that, if she is always ready, late at night, to work – "her candle goeth not out by night?"

The Lord desires for us to get good sleep. Will we get good sleep every night? No; especially if there is a baby in the house. 'Her candle goeth not out at night,' means that the virtuous woman is willing to get out of bed, in the middle of the night, when needed, to take care of her family. This could be feeding a baby, soothing a child from a nightmare, helping her husband with an important project, etc.

"She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff." –Verse 19

I think this verse goes hand in hand with verse 13.

"She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy." –Verse 20

The virtuous woman is a hard worker for her family, and she blesses them. She also helps the needy, and stretches out her hand to help them.

"She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet." -Verse 21

She is prepared. She makes sure her family has everything they need.

"She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple." -Verse 22

The Virtuous Woman does not neglect herself. She also provides nice clothing and coverings for herself. The New Testament Virtuous Woman also makes or provides nice head coverings for herself – see 1 Cor. 11:2-16.

"Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land." -Verse 23

She builds her husband up, when speaking of him to others. This verse goes nicely with verses 11 and 12.

"She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant." -Verse 24

The Virtuous Woman makes things for her home and family, and from time to time can make extra, and sell it.

"Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." -Verses 25 and 26

This woman is clothed in the character traits of strength and honor. When she speaks, it is with kindness and wisdom. She does not nag, she does not defile her lips with filthy communication, and she never gossips. She thinks before she speaks.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." -Verse 27

The Virtuous Woman is a joyful, hard worker. She is not lazy. She happily gets done what needs to be done, and more.

While most of us are hardly virtuous women, this passage of Scripture shows us the goal. It reveals to us what to strive for.

In the 1922 edition of the book "Fascinating Womanhood," it says to find a fascinating woman to study and emulate. What better fascinating woman is there, than the Virtuous Woman of Proverbs 31? SHE is who our role model should be, as wives, mothers, and homemakers.

This passage of Scripture ends with promises and benefits to the Virtuous Woman:

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates." -Verses 28-31

The Ephesians 5 Wife

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing." - Ephesians 5:22-24

- 1. Wives are to submit themselves to their own husbands*
- 2. The husband is the head of the wife, just as Christ is the head of the church*
- 3. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so must wives be to their husbands, in everything. The exception would be if it's not in the Lord.*

Notice the above passage does not say that the wife only has to obey her husband if he is a Christian. Nope. It just says the wife is supposed to obey her husband. Now, the Scriptures are clear that Christians are supposed to marry Christians, so hopefully you're a Christian, and so is your husband.

Perhaps you got saved after marriage, and your husband is still lost. Then the Bible says you are to be a light to your unsaved husband, and an example:

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.” -1 Peter 3:1-2

The Colossians 3 Wife

Colossians 3 is a good quick start guide, of sorts, for a new Christian. It goes over the basics of the family structure, amongst other Christian duties. For the wife, it says:

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” -Colossians 3:18

Notice it again says wives are to submit to their own husbands. I believe this is an important distinction. I am not to submit to Fred down the street, or Jack two blocks over. They are not my husband, and therefore not my head.

Blessing Your Husband

Does your husband deserve you blessing him? Does he deserve you to obey and submit to him? Does he deserve you being a helpmeet to him? These are questions a lot of women ask themselves, especially if they are just reading the above passages in the Bible for the first time.

In both Testaments, there are myriads of Scriptures about how the wife is to treat her husband. One day, you may enjoy doing a study on this. Sit down with a good concordance (or Biblegateway.com) and a King James Bible. Look up every scripture that contains the words wife and wives. You'll have an in depth and enlightening study, which would be well worth your time.

In answer to if your husband deserves your proper submission and respect of him, the answer is moot, because

the question is illogical. You see, love is freely given, expecting nothing in return.

The Bible says to love our enemies, and not get revenge on them, but leave the vengeance to the Lord. If we are to treat our enemies so well (who don't "deserve it") then certainly we can love, respect, obey, and submit to our husbands, even if we think they don't deserve it.

You see, love is not something that can be earned, and it doesn't come at any price. Love is freely given, expecting nothing in return. If you find yourself getting stuck on wondering if your husband deserves to be blessed by you, then please read and study 1 Corinthians chapter 13.

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." -Proverbs 31:11-12

The woman who blesses her husband has her husband's heart. He can safely trust her, and he depends on her. She is his helpmeet, and she stands by her man, symbolically putting back the rib that was removed. The husband and wife are one, in this sense.

The wife doesn't squander her husband's hard-earned money. She stretches it, and is frugal, yet doesn't take it too far. She makes sure her husband comes home to a nicely done up home (but not over done), she dresses nicely, has her children dressed nicely, etc.

She does her husband good, and not evil. She doesn't nag at him, complain, or compare him to other men.

She refuses to be a contentious woman:

"It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." -Proverbs 21:19

"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." -Proverbs 27:15

She speaks words of kindness:

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." -Proverbs 31:26

She loves her man, faults and all. She has learned that no one is perfect, so she chooses to focus on her husband's good points, and she turns a dim eye to his not so good qualities.

She builds him up and supports him. She compliments him on his masculinity, and on his projects and repairs around the house. She gladly partakes of the marriage bed with him, keeps herself looking pretty for him, and enjoys taking care of him, the children, and the home.

Because she blesses her husband and nurtures her children:

“Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” –Proverbs 31:28

The Marriage Bed

Many women withhold their bodies from their husbands. Did you know that the Scriptures say not to do that? According to the Bible, your body is not your own, it is your husband's, and your husband's body is not his own, it is yours. The Bible also says that marital physical intimacy is not to be withheld, unless both parties truly agree, for prayer and fasting, and then they are to come together again:

“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” -1 Corinthians 7:3-5

Marital physical intimacy is good, and nothing to be ashamed of. The shame comes in, if porn, sodomy, or related sins enter the marriage bed. Otherwise, the shame is only in relations outside of the marriage bond, which is never okay.

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.” -Hebrews 13:4

An active and healthy intimacy in the marriage bed helps keep a marriage alive, and the husband and wife close. Combine this with other ways of blessing him, and he'll praise you.

Samantha and Erica

Samantha drops her younger children off at daycare, and her older ones at school. She then rushes to work, and is there until late evening. Her husband works similar hours, but he is able to pick the children up and drop them off.

The older children are at home alone until Samantha gets home, and the younger ones get dropped off at a baby sitter until they can be picked up.

By the time Samantha arrives home, she just wants to walk back out the door again, or lock herself in her room, and pull the covers over her head. The house is a mess, and has a slight smell of sour milk. The kids pick at each other and scream almost incessantly. They yell words that she's sure she didn't know at their age.

She feels like she has very little control over them, so she just tries to make it day to day, and hope for the best.

Here husband later arrives home, and demands supper. She rarely has anything cooked, because she is just too tired after a day's work. Usually, she'll throw a frozen pizza or two in the oven, or order take out.

All of the children have dental cavities, and Samantha and her husband are struggling with their weight, and an outbreak of adult acne.

She and her husband rarely have time to talk, and prefer to go their own ways.

Down the street is Erica's house. Erica's house is much smaller and more modest than Samantha's. While Samantha's car is fairly new, and very nice, Erica's is over a decade old, and looks it. It runs, though, and that's enough to content Erica. It gets her to and from the grocery store and church, and is there for her, for the occasional special outing.

Erica's children are happy and well behaved. They are far from perfect, but they generally listen to their mama, and do what she says. Her home is clean, and has a fresh smell.

Her husband works hard, and comes home every evening, happy to see her, but often exhausted from a hard day's work. He works hard to support his family, and Erica makes his hard earned dollar stretch.

She invites her husband to relax on the couch while she finishes cooking supper, which is almost ready. The children know not to bombard daddy when he first gets home from work. Erica has already told them that daddy needs to rest a bit before supper, so they wait until the supper table to enjoy conversation.

After supper, the children help do the dishes and clean the kitchen, and then they show their dad the projects they

worked on that day, and tell him about the interesting critters they enjoyed while playing outside earlier.

Erica's household has a lot less money than does Samantha's, but Erica's is a happier one.

Which family is yours more like? Is your family currently the way you want it to be?

The Bible is clear that it is the man's job to earn the living to support the family.

But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. -1 Timothy 5:8

The Bible is also abundantly clear that the wife is supposed to keep the home. She is supposed to stay at home and take care of the children, the home, and her husband, when he is not out working:

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. -Titus 2:5

Perhaps you have answered the godly calling, and are living your God-given role, and are a keeper at home. If not, then you may be able to come up with a million and one reasons why you need to work outside the home. One of the most common excuses is more money.

Listen; unless you are a despondent widow, there is a way for you to keep the home. Even husbands who have had bad accidents and have become paralyzed have found ways to work to provide for their families.

Recall Psalms 37 and 91. God provides – do you trust?

Unfortunately, a good number of families where the both the husband and wife work are actually doing it for more money, but with a few tweaks and some downsizing, the wife could follow her biblical role and stay at home. In these cases, it boils down to who you serve:

“No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

–Luke 16:13

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and

*pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” -1
Timothy 6:10*

*Are more excuses coming up? If so, don't take them to me
– take them to the Word of God, and see if they actually
hold water.*

Don't be a Jezebel

*“And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him
to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he
took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the
Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped
him.” -1 Kings 16:31*

*“For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the
Lord, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid
them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and
water.)” -1 Kings 18:4*

*“Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the
prophets of the Lord, how I hid an hundred men of the
Lord's prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread
and water?” -1 Kings 18:13*

“Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.” -1 Kings 18:19

“And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.” -1 Kings 19:1-2

“And it came to pass after these things, that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard, which was in Jezreel, hard by the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. And Ahab spake unto Naboth, saying, Give me thy vineyard, that I may have it for a garden of herbs, because it is near unto my house: and I will give thee for it a better vineyard than it; or, if it seem good to thee, I will give thee the worth of it in money. And Naboth said to Ahab, The Lord forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee. And Ahab came into his house heavy and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him: for he had said, I will not give thee the inheritance of my fathers. And he laid him down upon his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no bread. But Jezebel his wife came to

him, and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread? And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it: and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard. And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry: I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite. So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city, dwelling with Naboth. And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people: And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die. And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them, and as it was written in the letters which she had sent unto them. They proclaimed a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people. And there came in two men, children of Belial, and sat before him: and the men of Belial witnessed against him, even against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, Naboth did blaspheme God and the king. Then they carried him forth out of the city, and stoned him with stones, that he died. Then they

sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead. And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth was stoned, and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give thee for money: for Naboth is not alive, but dead. And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.” -1 Kings 21:1-16

“But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the Lord, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.” -1 Kings 21:25

“And when Jehu was come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she painted her face, and tired her head, and looked out at a window. And as Jehu entered in at the gate, she said, Had Zimri peace, who slew his master? And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, Who is on my side? who? And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, Throw her down. So they threw her down: and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall, and on the horses: and he trode her under foot. And when he was come in, he did eat and drink, and said, Go, see now this cursed woman, and bury her: for she is a king's daughter. And they went to bury her: but they found no more of her

than the skull, and the feet, and the palms of her hands. Wherefore they came again, and told him. And he said, This is the word of the Lord, which he spake by his servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, In the portion of Jezreel shall dogs eat the flesh of Jezebel: And the carcase of Jezebel shall be as dung upon the face of the field in the portion of Jezreel; so that they shall not say, This is Jezebel.” -2 Kings 9:30-37

Jezebel serves as an example to Christian wives of how not to be a wife. As you can see, she basically ran the show, and her husband was under her. Certainly he was the king, but she was the puppet master, pulling his strings.

Let us strive to be nothing like Jezebel, but to be more and more like the Virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, every day.

Chapter Three

Mothers Professing Godliness



*Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and
the fruit of the womb is his reward. –Psalm
127:3*

They are Blessings, NOT Burdens

Here is the most important part of this chapter. I'm going to lay it all out there, and tell it to you bluntly. This may smart a bit, so take a deep breath before you read the next statement...

If you find your children a burden, rather than a blessing, then
you are doing it wrong.

There, I said it. We could go ahead and end this chapter right here. Or, I could write more, with plenty of Scriptures, and attempt to make this chapter a blessing for you. Let's do that, because I want you to read this chapter, and come away hopeful and inspired.

While I hope this chapter will be a blessing to you, also know that I'd be surprised if parts of it didn't hurt a bit. I know there are parts in this chapter that will convict and remind me, as well. As with the previous and further chapters in this book, I will back what I say with Scripture. That's how this whole book was born: from what I've learned from the Holy Scriptures.

Train up a Child

The book of Proverbs truly is a timeless book of Wisdom for the Christian of yesterday and today. It has a lot to say about the family structure. We looked at some for wifedom in the previous chapter, and in this one, we'll look at a few of many, about childrearing.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

You've likely heard or read this verse many times before. Have you stopped to really, I mean really, ponder it? Today, it is generally thought and taught that kids will be kids, and childhood should be filled with candy, toys, amusement parks, and other child adventures. Wait a minute, that isn't what Proverbs 22:6 tells us. We are to train up a child in the way he should go.

Raising children is training young human beings. We are supposed to train/teach them how to be good, Christian adults.

Look at birds as an example. Sure, the baby birds get to play, that's a good thing. Adults can still play, too, as we see adult birds do often, in the trees and skies. I still play, don't you?

Notice, though, that the parent birds also work diligently to train their babies. They teach them what they need to learn to be successful, grown birds.

In today's world, how many people are training up their children? And if they are, how many are training them up in the Lord? Children trained up in the Lord seem to be a dying breed now.

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." -Proverbs 13:24

This is especially so with younger children, who need to learn how to behave in polite society, how to have good manners, and general rules, like not running in the house, or jumping on furniture. When your child disobeys you or an understood rule, the above

Scripture says you are to discipline them right away. The word "betimes" means right away.

The problem with many trouble children is not some "disorder" they need to be drugged for, but that they need more structure, and mom needs to be more consistent in the training and discipline.

Perhaps you are having trouble, and you feel like you'd be disciplining your child all the time, and there would be no time for training, or the fun parts of parenting. If this be the case, then perhaps you are forgetting something - bonding, fellowship, and love.

Spend time with your children. Listen to them narrate the night's dreams to you, and listen with a smile, and with interest. Ask them about the game they just played, or their favorite toy. Engage in conversation with them. Have conversations about child things, but also have more advanced conversation, as well. For example, let's say your child dreamed about a giant squid. After he finished telling you his dream, you have an opportunity for your child to be interested in studying giant squids, which can lead to a delve into marine biology.

Tell the child about the giant squid and get his interest. Open an encyclopedia, or something online like Wikipedia, and read a bit about it. Now your child has engaged in a conversation at his level, and then one that he also enjoyed, which was more advanced, and got him to exercise his mind more.

Who is Training up Your Children?

If you are a Christian with a typical family, then your child likely goes to public school, or perhaps a private Christian school. He also participates in church youth programs, and perhaps AWANAs. Further, you may have gymnastics for your girls, and a sport for your boys to participate in, and perhaps each child has multiple extracurriculars like this.

They have 30-40+ hours a week with a public or private school - they are training up your child.

They have 1-10+ hours a week with church youth events, and perhaps AWANAs - they are training up your child.

They also may have an additional 1-10 hours a week with extra curricular activities - they are training up your children.

When do you train them up? Even when you do work with them, is it enough to counteract some of the false things they've learned from the above? Public schools often teach the opposite of Christian doctrine. I guarantee you that Christian schools and churches are not teaching 100% correct doctrine, either.

The parables in Matthew 13 warn us of this. The birds in the branches are false teachings/teachers, the leaven in the bread is false teaching, the tares in the field are false professions, or wolves in sheep's clothing, etc.

Remember, the multitudes of cults and other false teachings have permeated the kingdom of heaven, which is here in the sphere of

profession, but in the future will be here physically. Are you a tare, or are you wheat? God gave us His Word, the Holy Bible, so that we can read it, and the Holy Spirit and the written Word of God will help us determine what the leaven is, so that we can purge it from our and our children's lives. This is a journey. As more and more leaven is revealed to us, it's our job to purge it from our and our children's lives.

While we are ever learning and growing in the Lord, we need to teach and protect our children, as well.

The main, most important, and number one goal of all Christian parents for their children, should be that their children become strong, saved, born again, Bible believing, professing Christians. Every decision you make for them should have this in the background: Will it help or hurt them in the Lord?

A Child Left to Himself

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." -Proverbs 29:15

The first part of this verse goes with the discipline betimes discussed earlier in this chapter. Godly discipline brings godly wisdom.

Take a look at the second part of this verse - "a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

What is a child left to himself? It is a child without his mother - that is partly why it says "'bringeth his mother to shame."

There is not one place in the Bible, where it says thou may delegate the training of thy child to someone else. There is not one place in the Bible that says thou may leave thy child in nursery, or in children's programs. There is not one place in the Bible that says to age segregate your children off into separate classes, away from their mothers - be it in church, or public or private school. A child in a class is usually surrounded by a lot of other children, with a lack of adult supervision. Even if they get adequate adult supervision (not likely) it's not from their mother.

Whose job is it to train and educate their children? According to the Holy Word of God, it's the parent's, and mainly the mother's:

"to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." -Titus 2:4b-5

"Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work." -1 Timothy 5:10

"And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not. I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. For some are already turned aside after Satan." -1 Timothy 5:13-15

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call

her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." -Proverbs 31:26-28

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children." - Deuteronomy 4:9-10

"a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." -Proverbs 29:15b

A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame... How many bad habits and bad attitudes do children pick up from other children? A lot, if their mothers aren't there to watch and guide them away from such evils.

Remember the first time you were faced with the choice of putting your child into nursery at church? (Or a similar happening.) Remember how your very first, internal, gut reaction - your reflex, if you will, was to say "no thank you," and to keep your child with you? That was your maternal instinct.

Then, arguments within your mind, or from others would try to urge you to give the child over for a while. Perhaps you were told, or decided that you could use a break (whoops, children are a

blessing, not a burden. If they are burden, then you are doing it wrong. - Remember?)

The point I'm getting at, is that the maternal instinct is intact, and it tells us to keep our children with us. It's when we "cut the apron strings" that we can sear, or damage that instinct, to an extent. Being talked out of your maternal instinct could put your child's future into turmoil. Not only can the child learn bad attitudes and behaviors away from you, but there have been so many innocent children raped, molested, and abused at the hands of their babysitters - it's even happened in nursery, children's church, and youth programs. We are to protect our children, as well as train and educate them.

God gave us our children, and they are our responsibility. God delegated the raising of them to us, so who are we to then re-delegate that to others?

Obviously, you see that part of where I'm going with this, is home school. If you don't home school your children, I'm not going to tell you to immediately run over, and rip them out of school. No. What I am going to strongly suggest and urge you to do, however, is to pray. I mean pray hard.

After much prayer, open the subject with your husband, and continue to pray, and seek out the Lord's will. Pray for wisdom for your husband in this, as well as for yourself.

If you have decided to homeschool, but you don't know what to do, or where to start, don't worry; there are a lot of great websites and books out there to help you. Even if money is an issue, it can be done. For starters, you may want to visit Amblesideonline.com on the Internet.

A child left to himself doesn't just mean delegating your child to others, but it also means in playing. Certainly let your children play with their friends - every day, if possible. This is great for them. However, never just send them outside to play, unless you are going to be out there, too. Your children should be within your eyesight and/or earshot at all times, while they are playing.

Older children still need your guidance and protection as well. You should know where they are at all times, and what they are doing.

Never leave your children to themselves. As a mother, it is your job to train them, and that means you need to be there, to know what to train them on.

You can tell a child who is regularly left to himself from a child that is Scripturally trained by his mother. The one left, will be the one at the supermarket who will be grabbing things off of the shelf, and throwing a big fit when the mother puts it back on the shelf. The older ones will be the ones who act all depressed or dramatic, or who smirk a lot, and have bad attitudes.

The Christian Mother

As a child, did you ever come home to an empty house? I never have, but I know some of my friends did, and they didn't like it. I was considered one of the lucky ones, because my mom was a stay at home mom.

While I was blessed with a wonderful home life growing up, many of my friends were not. My mother was a homemaker, and my

father was the breadwinner. There was never any fighting or yelling, and home was always a place of comfort and peace.

Your presence in the home carries a huge psychological impact on your children. When a Christian mother lives her biblical role, it helps to cement gender roles in her developing children. Helen Andelin, who wrote the book "Fascinating Womanhood," believed that the rise of homosexuality was due, at least in part, from gender confusion in the child's developmental years.

When women lose their softness, and become harsh and tough like men, dress like men, go out to work like men, etc, then it becomes harder for small children to see the differences between male and female. The ideal balanced home would contain a loving, stay at home mother, and a responsible, hard working father.

When we train up our children, we don't do it solely via talking to them and teaching them. A large amount of the training comes from observation. From birth, our children are watching us. Like little sponges, they are absorbing everything. No one is perfect, so that too is a lesson the blessed little sponges must learn, but let us try to be the best mothers we can, regardless.

Oh, and by the way, don't look like the disheveled mom, from "the home labor camp." Yuck.

Some women don't feel the need to look nice, if they aren't planning to go anywhere. Remember, your husband will probably see you, your children will, and YOU will.

Put on a beautiful feminine dress, do your hair and maybe makeup, don a feminine head covering, and look in the mirror and feel good

about yourself. I assure you, you'll get more work done this way. Sometimes it's nice to play classical music, and light some scented candles to give yourself a boost - especially on dismal winter days.

What are Your Children Doing?

In the book of Proverbs, we learn that 'a child left to himself bringeth his mother shame.' Do you know what your children are doing right now? Do you always know what they are doing? This is especially urgent with younger children. It has been found by many homemakers that when they give their children structure, that they tend to be well behaved. When children are given free/play time, have some guidelines to go by. For example, you may designate a certain area of the house for playing with many toys, and that your children must put their toys away when playtime is over. Other structural activities you may consider having your children do, could be:

- Chores
- Home School
- Table Activities - such as playdough, coloring, activity books, puzzles, legos, building blocks. etc.
- Quiet time (younger children nap; older children have some quiet time to play by themselves and relax)
- Reading time
- Computer time

- Practice playing a musical instrument

You can probably think of many other things to add to the above list. Older children will be (hopefully) engaged in home school and projects.

Especially with toddlers and other younger aged children, keeping them busy will keep them happy, have them learning, and keep peace in the home. You do NOT have to have children running around screaming, and making messes. When children are doing that, it's because they don't know what else to do, so give them something fun, constructive and PEACEFUL to do.

When you are cleaning, give your children cleaning chores as well. A child can start having simple chores at around the age of 2. Age 2 is a great time to teach your children the "Cleanup Song," and to have them learn to place their toys in a toy box when they are done playing. They can also be given a clean washcloth, and perhaps a spray bottle of water, and can follow you around, wiping things down.

Older children should have chores more suited for their ages. When meals are over, does your family scatter, leaving you with a messy kitchen? Teach your children servitude and responsibility, and assign them table chores. Try rotating the following chores between your children each day:

- Clear and wipe down the table
- Sweep the floor
- Wash the dishes

- Load the dish drainer

While your children are doing their table chores, you are doing the other chores not assigned to anyone, and inspecting their work. A young child is not going to do the job perfectly, but allow them to try, and compliment them on their hard work. They will learn. Remember to make it fun.

Cut the Bad Attitude.

Do your children have bad attitudes? Do they back talk and disobey? It is likely that they learned some of these bad habits from you. Learn to use those smile muscles, and stop frowning - you don't want frown wrinkles; they age you. A smile is more youthful looking, attractive, and contagious. Spread the joy.

Admittedly, there are some redundant and unpleasant aspects in homemaking. This is the case in all jobs. When you are working on tasks you don't particularly enjoy, just think to yourself how grateful you are that you have that job to do. There are so many unfortunate people in the world that would love to have your monotony.

Don't forget God and I time.

Years ago, I attended a wonderful church that had "God and I Time" early on certain mornings. People would gather at church, and listen to an audiotape of the Bible while they followed along. The time would be opened and closed with prayer. While that is great, you don't have to go to church to have this precious time. You can have some "God and I Time" even while you are washing dishes, or scrubbing the floor. Remember that the Bible calls us

to "pray without ceasing." Try to get into a habit of carrying an ongoing conversation with the Heavenly Father.

If you have young children, then you may find yourself collapsing on the couch after the children go to bed, too exhausted to do anything else. Even if this is the case, make the time to get into the Word of God. Some women prefer to do it when they first wake in the mornings, while others can't, because they fall back to sleep when they try. Other women spend time in the Scriptures during the children's scheduled afternoon quiet time. Yet, others like to read the Word at night before they sleep. Make a commitment to get into the Word every day. Meditate on it, and store it in your heart. If you do this, then you'll find that certain relevant Scriptures will come to your mind throughout the day, right when you need them. Now, isn't that comforting?

Love Your Children.

Tell and show your children that you love them each day. Give them random hugs and pats. Compliment them on their daily accomplishments. Create such a strong bond of fellowship between you, that your children will not want to misbehave, because they desire to please their parents and make them proud. Your children should be able to talk to you about anything, and you should be a good listener. Show your children that as their mother, you are always there for them.

However, don't be a pushover. Children appreciate a mother who doesn't let them push her around. When mama says "no," it's NO.

A wonderful book to read on rearing children is "All About Raising Children," written by Helen Andelin.

What About Children's Church?

NOTE: The title of this section has the words "children's church" in it, but this isn't just about that. This section includes children's Sunday school, Sunday and Wednesday evening church Bible studies, and all other church youth events, including AWANAs.

What does God's Word say? ...

"Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children." - Deuteronomy 4:9-10

Whose job is it to teach my children? According to the Bible, it's my job.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." -Deuteronomy 6:6-7

Whose job is it to teach their children about the things of God? It's the parent's job.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

It's the parent's job to train and teach their children; not the church's. When Judah would gather before the Lord, did the parents first drop their children off in nursery, or Children's Church? No:

"And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children." -2 Chronicles 20:13

When Judah gathered before the Lord to hear the Scriptures read, were the children dropped off in nursery or Children's Church? No:

"And the king went up into the house of the LORD, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the LORD." -2 Kings 23:2

Where were the children? Were they age-segregated off to different rooms or areas? No:

"When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and

learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it." -Deuteronomy 31:11-13

In the above Scripture, it was commanded that the children be with their parents when they gathered together to worship the Lord, and to study His Word. There are so many times in both the Old and New Testaments, where Scriptures were read aloud, and church services were held. Where were the children? They were with their families, as part of the congregation.

"I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren." - 1 Thessalonians 5:27

Where were the children when the Epistles and Scriptures were read aloud to "all the holy brethren?" As per Deuteronomy 31:11-13, they were right there in the congregation with everyone else.

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." -Mark 10:15

Yet, there is an incorrect premise, which states that children are not able to pay attention to God's Word, unless visual and audio stimulation is involved. There is the misconception that a child cannot sit in church with his parents and understand much of what is being said. There is a misconception that children don't wish to be in church. These misconceptions are taught to children, via others believing this incorrect premise, and treating the children accordingly.

Yet, Mark 10:15 says "whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." Adults and children are to be in church together, as part of the congregation. If we think children won't sit well in church, they

most likely will live down to that expectation. If we expect them to sit still and behave in church, with just a little bit of training, they will live up to that expectation instead.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." -Proverbs 22:6

Are we training our children to have respect for the things of God, or are we showing them that we don't believe that they are able to seek the Lord with their parents, and therefore must be age-segregated away from the congregation?

Did you know:

"Statistics clearly support that when parents disciple their own children, an overwhelming majority of those children remain in the faith after leaving home. However, when that job is delegated to the church staff, a similarly overwhelming majority leave the faith."

The above is an excerpt from the article called "Family Integration," at GraceFamilyInfo.org.

"Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts: let the bridegroom go forth of his chamber, and the bride out of her closet." -Joel 2:16

Who are gathered? The people, AND children, AND nursing babies. Worshipping the Lord, and gathering together in His name to study His Word is a family event. Families sit down together to eat supper. Shouldn't they also partake of spiritual meat

together?

Gathering together with the congregation is a special time, and I wish to spend that special time with my family.

"And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to me. And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children." -Matthew 14:15-21

The multitude followed Jesus, and He taught them. The time drew late, and they needed to eat, and food was provided. Where were the children during all of this? According to verse 21, they were there with the congregation.

Where did Jesus say that children should be? When Jesus was teaching, the disciples tried to segregate the children, but Jesus wished otherwise:

"And they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer {allow} little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God." -Luke 18:15-16

I will not and do not judge those who choose to put their children into children's programs, but I will not do such with my children.

Some people put their children in Church youth programs so that they can socialize. Church is not for socializing, and shouldn't be viewed for such purposes. Church is a place for believers to gather in fellowship to worship, praise, and learn about the Creator. Children can socialize at potlucks, parks, play dates, visiting friends after church services are over, etc.

Kids are like sponges. They soak up the environment around them, including what is being said and taught. My children have amazed me on many occasions, by bringing up the topic of certain sermons or Bible studies from church. They listen to what is being taught.

Their minds have not been spoiled via loud music and flashy videos or puppets and such. Entertainment education carries the danger of driving the developing brain to take the path of passive learning, as opposed to active learning. When a child is trained to be a passive learner, they will need to be spoon-fed education, in the most entertaining way possible.

When a child has been brought up to be an active learner, then they are taught to seek out information for themselves, and to soak up information from the written and spoken word, with no sparkles and entertaining extras required.

Furthermore, most church youth programs follow the same, or similar educational model as public schools do, via the Dewey education system. The Dewey educational model goes against natural brain development. Its very systems and theories originated, and were designed, because of Darwinian evolution.

Before Dewey, all schools followed the Trivium, or Classical Education approach, which is the natural way of education, which works perfectly with the developing brain.

By educating children via the Dewey method (the method used by most public schools and church youth programs) combined with entertainment education, the developing brain can be altered, in which the child not only learns passively, instead of actively, but also can lead a child to having an "entertain me" view of life, instead of a "how can I be a blessing to others" type of life.

I believe that it is biblical for children to be with their parents during church. Further, I believe that children's ministries, like public school, can be detrimental to a child's development, and can be a blockade in both their spiritual and academic development.

While I don't judge or look down on those who choose to utilize these programs, I choose not to utilize them, and I believe the Bible to clearly back me on this issue.

Seven Steps to Teaching Your Children how to Sit Well in Church

1. Your attitude and expectations make a big difference. This is the most important step of the seven. If you expect your children to fail, they just may fulfill your expectations. If you have a stressed attitude, being worried about them not sitting well, they will likely notice it, and respond with ansiness. Relax, take a deep breath, send a prayer to the Lord, sit down, and expect your children to sit nicely in church. Don't stress about it.

2. Have assigned seating arrangements. If you have more than one child, then plan which child is going to sit where in the pew,

relative to you. If you have a particular child who has trouble sitting still, then make sure that child is right next to you. If you have a child who bothers your other children, then have that child next to you, on the other side, with you between them and their siblings. If you have an older child who is sitting fairly well in church, then you may be able to use them as a "divider," to separate little ones who may upset each other during services. Have the seating arrangements planned out before church, and quietly point out to each child where you want them to sit when you arrive in the sanctuary.

3. If you home school, then try doing it with ALL of your children together, at the same time. Make sure your other children are working quietly on assignments while you are working with a specific child. Insist that the children sit nicely, and quietly, while you are teaching. This helps to ingrain the good habit of sitting nicely and quietly when someone is speaking. Very young children and babies should sit up with part of home school, and then can be excused for naps.

4. A big mistake that many mothers make, is giving their children coloring books, drawing tablets, and toys to keep their children quiet and occupied during the sermon. If you do this, STOP. This teaches two negative things to your children. 1) That you don't think your child is able to sit nicely and quietly through a sermon, so you don't expect it of them (see step 1, above), and 2) It looks like you don't view the sermon important enough for your child to learn. Even toddlers can pick up on many key points of sermons. I can't tell you how many times I've heard my children tell parts of the sermon back to me, at age 2, with big smiles on their faces. Expect your children to sit quietly and nicely during the sermon, with nothing to do, but listen. Also, teach them to listen nicely -

don't let them slump down, or look around the sanctuary. That is rude.

5. Let your children participate in church with you. This step ties in with steps 1 and 4. Expect that your children, no matter how young, are intelligent beings created by God, and are able to absorb and learn, even from a drawn out sermon. Make sure each child stands and sings when the congregation does. Help them learn how to use and follow along in the hymnals, as soon as they are able to read. Before that point, if there are enough hymnals in your pew, let your non-readers have hymnals as well, and let them pretend they are reading the music from it while singing. You can also take this opportunity to make sure your children know how to respect property. Make sure they don't draw on, rip, or ruin the hymnals. Make sure your children pray when the congregation prays, and stands and sits with everyone else. Children are to face forward, and not look at other children or people in the pew behind you. All your children should have their own Bibles. Non-readers can use picture Bibles. Have your children follow along in their Bibles during the sermon. Help the younger ones with full Bibles find the text being preached. The non-readers can view their picture Bibles during the sermon, but not during prayer and singing.

6. Each day, have church practice at home, until your children get good at it, and then just have practice a few times a week, or as needed. Line up some kitchen chairs like a pew, and have everyone sit in their assigned pew spots. Start by standing and singing a few hymns, and then move on to listening to a sermon. You can find free sermons to listen to online. Have your children sit nicely, and pay attention. Here is something to try: Have each of your children stand up, and pretend to preach, while you sit there, slouched down, arms crossed, and with a bored expression on your

face. Ask your child how you think it makes Pastor feel, when he sees people looking bored when he preaches. Then, have your child pretend to preach again, but this time, sit up, look him in the eye, and smile. Discuss the golden rule with your children, and that just as when we speak, we want people to look interested, we should look interested and engaged when the pastor preaches.

7. While training your young children how to sit nicely in church, you may find that they become disruptive, and will need to be removed from service. When this happens, do NOT take them to a separate room, where they end up playing, and do not take them to the hall and let them run up and down the hall while you socialize. This rewards your child for behavior that they know is no good. Instead, take your child directly to the bathroom, and put them at a time out, staring at the most boring, blank wall in there. When their time out is over, tell them how you expect them to behave in church, then promptly walk them back into church, sit down, and expect your child to behave. It's important not to become angry, impatient, or upset when your child acts up and has to have a bathroom time out. Just be patient and calm, always expecting the best of your child, and it will happen. After a few to several times of having to stare at the bathroom wall when being disruptive in the sanctuary, the child will decide it's better to obey mama, and sit nicely in church.

When having lunch after church, discuss the sermon with your children. You can give rewards for those who can tell parts of the sermon back to you. You can make a game out of it, if you wish. Keep it fun and special. The Lord's Day is the most important day of the week.

Children's Chores

I believe children should have chores to do. I think it helps teach them responsibility, and can teach them to be joyful, diligent workers unto the Lord, as they get older. Housework doesn't need to be monotonous drudgery. It can be fun. I personally love organizing and putting things away. Three of the most relaxing homemaking chores for me, are putting away groceries, putting away laundry, and emptying the dish drainer. My least favorite chores are cleaning toilets and vacuuming, but even those aren't too bad.

Depending on your children's ages and capabilities, you can decide what types of chores they can have. I think it is important to teach them early on, about taking good care of their things and their living areas, so keeping their rooms clean is a good start.

As soon as my children could walk and understand, I taught them to put their toys away in their toy boxes. That's the first chore. At around age 2, I may give the child a spray bottle of water and a clean washcloth, and let him or her wipe things down with me. They usually love doing that.

As my children get/got older, they get different or more chores, and it shows them that as they get older, they are trusted with more.

When your child is old enough to sweep the floor, they are probably old enough to:

- Wipe down sinks

- Clean tables and counters
 - Dust
 - Vacuum
 - Wipe down the outside of the toilet (make sure they know to wash their hands when they are done. Explain germs to them.)
- etc.

In my home, while I'm doing my usual daily cleaning chores, I have one or more chores assigned to each child. On some days, we are working outside. Perhaps I'll be working in the garden, so I may have a few of the kids picking up after the dog in the yard, and a few more cleaning rabbit cages. Part of the deal of our getting pets, was that the kids would play a large part in taking care of them. They have been doing wonderfully, and love caring for the animals.

Indoor work - Perhaps I'm polishing mirrors and dusting. At this time, one child may be wiping down all sinks, another cleaning all tables and counters, another wiping down the children's toilet, and another vacuuming their bedroom. You see, many things in my house get cleaned almost every day - by different family members. I have what is considered by today's standards, to be a large family. If we don't stay on top of the cleaning, things get messy rather fast. The guest/children's toilet gets cleaned at least three times a week, the living room and hallway get vacuumed almost every day, counters and sinks are usually wiped down and cleaned daily, and living areas dusted four or more times a week.

Each home and family is different, so if you are looking for some chores for your children, you'll need to consider your own family's needs, and go from there. Below, I can give you some tips on coming up with, and dividing up children's chores:

1. First, look at your own cleaning chores that you do regularly. Are there some chores that you can only get to once a week, but that need done more often? Consider assigning some of these to your children.

2. Are there certain areas of the home that a certain child makes and leaves a mess in? Assign special cleaning of that area to said child.

3. Make a list of chores, using steps one and two for your children. Then, divide up those chores between your children, on rotating days. Give them (and yourself) the weekends off. Some chores may not be appropriate for younger children. Very young children may need to be given a few nominal chores to do, while the big kids are finishing up their chores. Little ones like to work hard like their older siblings, so let them dust, wipe things down with a bit of water, organize your mixing bowls, etc.

In addition to cleaning chores, I believe that children should be responsible for their own room chores. Every morning, they should get dressed, make their beds, and clean their rooms. If your children are very young, then you or an older sibling will need to help them, but let them do as much of it as they can on their own. Don't expect perfection out of them, and praise them for their work, even if it's a bit sloppy. They'll get better at their chores as they get older.

After meal times, don't let the children scatter. Assign everyone table chores. If you have several children, then you may have rotating days, where only certain children do table chores on certain days. If you have six or less children (and a big enough kitchen) then everyone can chip in to get the kitchen cleaned in a matter of minutes.

- Someone can wipe the table and counter, and straighten the chairs
- Someone can sweep the floor
- Someone can wash the dishes
- Someone can load the dish drainer

Many hands make light work. This is true.

Don't forget about laundry. Young children can help you fold, sort, and put away laundry. As soon as you notice that they have the hang of folding laundry, start letting them fold and put away their own laundry. They won't be so neat at it in the beginning, but let them do it anyways. They'll get better at it as they get older. When the child is ready, you can teach them how to do their own laundry. My children generally start doing their own laundry at about age 5. I supervise them on putting in the soap and starting the washing machine, until they are older.

Your children are observing you. They are seeing what they are supposed to be like when they are adults. Make sure they see you doing your work with a good attitude and a light heart. By showing Christian diligence and a good work ethic, your children will develop the same traits of good character.

While doing chores together, talk, laugh, and sing. Enjoy each other's company. Give thanks to the Lord that you have things to clean.

Chapter Four

Professing Godliness Through Femininity



*Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of
plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of
apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that
which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and
quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. -1*

Peter 3:3-4

Biblical Femininity

"The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." -Titus 2:3-5

Women are to be:

Sober - both mentally and physically. Clear-headed.

Love their husbands and children (which means they need to treat them with love)

Discreet - the opposite of cattiness and gossip, which women tend toward.

Chaste - both in dress and behavior.

Keepers at home - this is the opposite of a career woman. It is the husband's job to work outside of the home:

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." -Genesis 3:19

Good - doing what's right, even when it is inconvenient, humbling, or makes you look like a fool to the world.

Obedient to their own husbands. The woman of today's world may find it distasteful to learn that it is God's will for her to submit to her husband. It is important to keep in mind that submission and obedience to one's husband does not mean

the woman is less important. Men and women are equal, they just have different roles. The man has a much harder role.

If you struggle with obedience and submission to your husband, then you need to pray the Lord to help you. Perhaps you think your husband doesn't deserve your respect and submission. Do you deserve for him to treat you like a queen (as many women desire)? Probably not. We all do things we are not proud of, but as Christians, we are called in our walk to become more perfect each day. We are shedding our worldly selves, and transforming our lives to conform more to the life of Christ.

The book "The Secrets of Fascinating Womanhood" has helped to transform many women's lives and marriages from a mess of weeds to a beautiful banquet. That book is now available free, just do a search for it online. Please take the time to read that book. Its potential to enrich your life and walk with the Lord is high.

If we are not submissive and obedient to our own husbands, the Bible says we are then "blaspheming the Word of God." That is SERIOUS. No mention is made about if our husbands are right or wrong, whether they are walking with God or not, or whether they deserve to be obeyed. Just as long as he is not breaking the laws of the land, or the Word of God, the wife is to submit, while being "good," - having a good, submissive, LOVING, cheerful attitude.

It is equally important that the husband honor his wife, else his prayers may be hindered. See 1 Peter 3:7. This tells us that it is not the wife's job to make sure her husband falls in line. Let GOD take care of it. It is the husband's responsibility to honor his wife, and if he doesn't, let Lord work on him. As his wife, you are to pray, and be a model of a humble, submissive, and loving Christian. See 1 Peter 3:1

A woman should be the opposite of a man. Men have loud, deep, strong voices. Women should therefore speak more soft, and sweetly. Men, by nature, take charge, unless they've been beaten down, in which case he should be built back up - see the earlier recommended book. Women should never try to change their husbands, or nag them:

"It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." -Proverbs 21:19

"It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house." -Proverbs 25:24

"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." -Proverbs 27:15

A man is strong and muscular - a woman should be soft and feminine (she should be strong as well, but she shouldn't use it the same way a man does - see Proverbs 31).

Throughout the Bible, we see that the distinctions between the man and the woman are opposites. When a man and woman marry, they come together - they complete each other. They are like two halves of one unit - this unit is not a doubling of the same thing, but two opposite halves, which come together and compliment each other.

After you've read "The Secrets of Fascinating Womanhood," consider following that up by reading "Baptist Women Exalted." That book goes into much detail on this principle, with a liberal sprinkling of firm Scriptures to back up each point. This book is also available online for free, just do a search for it.

Men are to work "by the sweat of their brow," while women are to be "keepers at home."

Men are to lead and honor their wives, and women are to submit to and be obedient to their husbands.

TIP: Women desire to be loved - "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." -Colossians 3:19

Men desire to be ADMIRER. Don't nag your husband, or try to change him. The changing is between the Lord and your husband, if any change is needed. Look at his good side, and remove the magnifying glass from his faults. You have faults too. What if your husband set out to change you, and focused on your faults? Yet, wives do this to their husbands all the time. Give your husband the freedom to mess up. Admire him daily. TELL him you enjoy his muscles, his strength, his strong character, his efforts at his job, etc. Tell him often. For a man, this is love.

NEVER talk down about your husband to others. Women tend to go to each other for comfort, when they have a woe regarding their husband. When a woman speaks negatively to or about her husband, it creates distrust in the heart of her husband. Even if he doesn't know you've been talking disrespectfully of him, he'll sense it from the way others will subtly treat him. Build your husband up when speaking with others.

"Every wise woman buildeth her house [family]: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." -Proverbs 14:1

When you admire your husband, so that he KNOWS you do, and when you build him up, instead of tearing him down, then he trusts you fully with his heart:

"The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life." -Proverbs 31:11-12

Forget about if he deserves it or not. Waiting for your husband to deserve your admiration is NOT love. True love is not a wage; it is never earned. Love is freely given, expecting nothing in return.

Since we've seen in Scripture that women are to have opposite roles and mannerisms from men, what about appearance and dress? The same principle carries over:

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." -Deuteronomy 22:5

There is to be a marked difference between the way women look, and the way men do. Women are to wear clothing that shows, without a doubt, that they are female.

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" -1 Timothy 2:9

[Shamefacedness - humble, not haughty. No "divas," or "all thats" allowed.]

According to the literal Greek translation of the above verse, a woman's "modest apparel" should be long and flowing; a dress. "Apparel" is from the Greek word "katastolē," which is a feminine noun, and means "a garment let down, a dress." You can look this up for yourself, online at BlueLetterBible.org.

When a person is seen from behind, it can be revealed at a glance if that person is a woman, if she is in a dress.

The same goes for hair. Men are to have short hair, and women are to have long hair.

"Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering." -1 Corinthians 11:14-15

Covering = "to wrap around." This particular instance of "covering" is different from all the other occurrences of "covering" in chapter 11. All the other instances refer to something put on top of the head, such as a fabric covering.

The differences between men and women are not limited to just the physical, the roles, and the mannerisms. These differences carry over into the spiritual as well.

In the natural, the woman is to have long hair. In the spiritual, the woman is to wear a head covering. Below is an excerpt from the free book "Baptist Women Exalted:"

"Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." -1 Corinthians 11:4-6

The natural subjection has to do with the fact of creation. The woman was created in a subjective position and the man in an authoritative position.

The Divine subjection has to do with God's purpose to teach the world concerning the relationship between Christ and His church.

Therefore, we see a double picture of subjection. One that is NATURAL and one that is SUPERNATURAL. The natural subjection was designed by God to ultimately reflect the supernatural.

Nature has established natural symbols for both the man and the woman to remind and teach them of their God given positions in the home and in society.

Doth not NATURE itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him? But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given her for a covering. (1Cor 11:14-15)

Long hair on a woman is her NATURAL symbol of submission, whereas short hair on a man is his natural symbol of authority. It is significant that in Scripture and secular history, that short hair on a woman has been a sign of shame (1Cor 11:6) and rebellion, and that long hair on a man has been a sign of rebellion (e.g. Absalom, Greek philosophers etc.)

The question is often asked "how long is long and how short is short?" This question is quite simple to answer, short enough that it leaves no question that you're a man and long enough that it leaves no question that you're a woman, anything in between is "confusion" and God is not the author of confusion (1Cor 14:33).

However, God intends that more than this NATURAL order with its NATURAL symbols be displayed in His churches. In His churches, He intends that the SPIRITUAL order be displayed by Divine symbols.

The man is to remove his hat and remain uncovered while in the place of prayer and prophesying, whereas the woman is to cover her head with a veil or hat (1Cor 11:4-6).

Therefore, we have NATURAL and SUPERNATURAL positions with corresponding symbols to teach both. The natural symbol was given to the woman to ultimately correspond and point to the divine symbol that would be worn in the place of prayer and

prophesying.

Therefore, Paul asks, Doth not nature itself teach you? When a woman refuses to wear the Divine symbol in the place of prayer and prophesying she is in rebellion against the very testimony, that nature has given her. Her hair "is given her FOR (Greek Anti, "like" or "corresponding to") a covering" (1Cor 11:15). Refusal to wear the divine symbol "is all one AS IF she were shorn" (1Cor 11:5) in God's eyes.

For if the woman be not covered, let her ALSO be shorn; but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn (hair cut short) OR shaven (no hair), LET HER BE COVERED. (1Cor 11:6).

Quoted from the chapter called 'The Symbols of This Position' from the book "Baptist Women Exalted."

A woman's spiritual head is her husband:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." - Ephesians 5:22-23

The woman's physical head is to have a covering over it, to symbolize the above spiritual truth.

Communion symbolizes how Christ died for our sins. Living water symbolizes eternal life through Christ. Christ is symbolized as a door. If we open that door, we commune with the Lord for eternity. The marriage covenant symbolizes the marriage of the church to Christ. A woman's head covering symbolizes that she is under the Lord's authority by submitting to her husband. The angels see this power on the woman's head.

Don't take my word for any of the above. Take it all to God in prayer. Study it in the Scriptures for yourself.

A Meek and Quiet Spirit

“Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.” - 1 Peter 3:1-6

The Scriptures tell us in several places not to wear expensive clothing, or gobs of jewelry, etc. In the above, we are told instead to be clothed with a meek and quiet spirit. To be meek, means to be humbled, patient, kind, gentle, and in this case, also submissive to our husbands.

We know what quiet means. We are to remain under the authority of our husbands, and we need to recognize that most of us ladies can really talk up a storm. When we let our mouths run, out come some things that probably should not have.

Meek and quiet is a goal to work towards, and once reached, it is something to be honed and refined. This is part of the Christian walk for the Christian woman. Below are some more Scriptures to help us with meekness. Meekness isn't just for women. It is for all Christians to practice.

“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” -Colossians 3:12-18

“To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.” -Titus 3:2

“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” -James 1:21

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.” –James 3:13

How Great a Matter a Little Fire Kindleth

The power of the tongue is a big issue, and is discussed frequently in the Bible, and for good reason. What you speak (or write) can affect people in various ways. It is not "harmless discussion," if you are speaking down about someone personally, or gossiping. Over and over, the Bible condemns this.

The old saying "*sticks and stones can break my bones, but words can't hurt me*" is simply not true. Words can hurt more than sticks and stones. God will hold us accountable for the words we speak/write, to hurt others:

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." - Matthew 12:36

If something you said/wrote was taken as mean or gossipy, but that is truly not how you meant it, then it is not imputed to you as sin.

Treat others the way you wish to be treated, and love them with Christian love:

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." -Matthew 7:12

"For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." -Galatians 5:14

Before you speak or write, consider if what you are about to say follows the above two Scriptures.

Gossiping, being a busy body, etc. is condemned in the Bible:

"And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not." -1 Timothy 5:13

Our top priority is to love and follow the Lord, and then to take care of family and home. We are not to be idle, wandering from house to house (or website to website), tattling, being busybodies, or speaking things, which we should not.

The Christian woman is to follow the Law of Kindness:

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." -Proverbs 31:26

She is to be kind to others, not only in public, but also in her home:

"It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house." -Proverbs 25:24

"It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." -Proverbs 21:19

"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." -Proverbs 27:15

Think about the above and below Scriptures before you open your mouth, or type something on the World-Wide-Web:

"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" -James 3:5

If someone has said something that angers you, please adhere to the following:

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" -James 1:19

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." -Romans 12:17

Don't be a murderer at heart:

"But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart

proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man." - Matthew 15:18-20

"Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." -1 John 3:15

If you have not forgiven someone of something, please do so now, or your eternity is at stake:

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." -Matthew 6:14-15

"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." -Mark 11:25-26

Sisters, not only should the Law of Kindness be on our tongues, but we should not be going to places where the tongue speaks (or the written word) poorly of others. This includes physically going places, or going to certain places online.

"The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!" -Matthew 6:22-23

"Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil" -Isaiah 1:16

"I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou

come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD." -Psalm 101

Sisters, if we have misused our tongues (including what we type online) may we ask the Lord to forgive us. If we have harbored ill will towards another, for having taken offense at something said or typed, may we forgive, and have no further malice in our hearts.

Chapter Five

Clothes Professing Godliness



In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array -1

Timothy 2:9

Dress for Success

While we are growing inward on the Christian walk, we must also make an outward profession. We profess Christ by our behavior, attitudes, reactions, and generally how we speak and behave. The Bible calls this our conversation with the world. The Bible doesn't just have things to say about the spiritual self, but also about outward appearances. The Bible tells us that women should dress modestly, and femininely, as well as following her God-given role in the Christian family.

1) Women are called to be submissive to their husbands:

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord.” -Colossians 3:18

One of the ways to outwardly show submission is via how one dresses. Think of it this way - people who work outside of the home often have certain ways they dress for their jobs. The way they dress shows not only their job (uniforms, for example) but may also show their seniority.

The wife wears a dress, and this is just one of many things that outwardly helps to reveal her submission to her husband.

2) Women and men are called to dress differently. Men are to wear man's clothing, and women are to wear woman's clothing:

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God.” – Deuteronomy 22:5

If you see someone from behind, and they have long hair, and are wearing a dress, then you'd likely assume that person is a woman. Women should wear clothing that shows, without a doubt, that they are female.

3) Women are to dress modestly, and have a meek and quiet spirit:

“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.” –1 Peter 3:3-4

4) Women are to dress modestly, and wear long and flowing garments/dresses:

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array” -1 Timothy 2:9

The Greek word for "apparel" in the above verse, is "katastolē," which is a feminine noun, and means "a garment let down, a dress." You can look this up for yourself online at BlueLetterBible.org.

5) Christians are to let their light shine. While that means being Christian in behavior and conduct, it also includes appearances:

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:16

Avoid even the appearance of evil. This means not doing things that appear wrong, or going places or participating in things that can appear evil. This also includes our own appearance:

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” -1 Thessalonians 5:22

Lastly, Christian women may choose to be dresses only, to be more set apart from the world:

*“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
- James 4:4*

“They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” -1John 4:5-6

WARNING: Being dresses only as a good work towards salvation, or to appear pious and religious to others is no good. Christian women who are dresses only should understand this is a heart issue:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD." -Isaiah 55:7-8

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
-Hebrews 4:12

"And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness." -Luke 11:39

Please keep in mind that the way you dress is not a salvation issue. The Bible is clear that there is only one way to heaven, and that is via believing on Christ, Who died on the cross to pay for our sins, and Who rose again, three days later. Also keep in mind that wearing dresses is a public issue in the general sense. If you are exercising, or doing an activity that clearly cannot be done in a dress, then please wear the appropriate clothing.

You can dress feminine, and modest, without coming out as being frumpy. Some women have tried wearing dresses, and their husband didn't like it. In many cases, it was not

that their husbands didn't like them in a dress, but that the style of dress was not very becoming. Find what style your husband likes. He may not know yet, himself. You can try showing him pictures and ask him which type of dress he'd like to see you in, or perhaps you can buy several styles from a thrift store, and try them on for him.

Often, husbands may not know if they'd like you in dresses or not, but if they see you in a nice one, they may realize they love it.

If you like to sew, you can make your own dresses. Otherwise, good places for dresses are:

Thrift stores

Ross

Wal-Mart

As a general rule, it's best for the dress to be mid-calf length or lower, and not low cut or see through. Further, I don't suggest sleeveless, or the showing of the shoulders.

What if Your Husband Doesn't Like You in Dresses, or Doesn't Like Your Dresses?

Usually, this is because the style of dress you have chosen is something that takes away from your natural beauty and femininity. Each of us must find the balance between feminine and modest. Wearing a big, loose, bag of a dress is modest, but it is not at all feminine, and most husbands will put their foot down, should their wife wear that.

Many husbands prefer dresses that go in at the waist, and then float away at the hips. If you do not have a small waist, are short waisted, or are overweight, then consider empire waistlines. Be careful with this, in that it doesn't look like a maternity dress, however.

Find dresses that flatter your figure. ALL women's body types can look flattering in a dress. You just need to find your style. I would suggest visiting a Ross, Dress Barn, or thrift store, and that you try on all sorts of styles – even ones you think you are positive won't look good on you. Try on some of the immodest ones, too, to see if there are certain features that look nice, and that you can look for in modest dresses.

For me, I've noticed that I can't wear very many skirts, as they add bulk to my waist, and can make me look up to 20 pounds heavier than I am. However, I can wear skirt sets that come with a blouse and jacket, but it depends on the cut.

Most of my dress styles go in at the waist, and many tie in the back, but some have elastic to make the waist go in. I also have a few belt dresses.

I sometimes enjoy some higher waisted, or empire type dresses, but I've found it needs to be a wide, elastic waistband, else my husband says it looks like a maternity dress.

How to Make an Immodest Dress Modest

If the dress is too short, then see if you can sew on a ruffle, or extra material. If not, then you probably should ditch the shorter dress.

If the dress is too low cut – you can often use a safety pin to pin in the neckline, and make it higher. Then, you can decide if you want to sew it, or just keep the safety pin.

If the dress has straps, but no sleeves – then see about wearing a cute short sleeve shirt underneath it.

A lot of ladies enjoy maxi dresses. Generally, they are very long, but often they are low cut and sleeveless (usually has straps). The waistline is high, and if paired with a special shirt, jacket, or other top, will slim you, and won't look like maternity. Here's one trick on how to make a maxi dress modest:

Put a tank top under the maxi dress for the low neck line, or if it works, instead use a safety pin to raise the neck line. Then, put a cute short sleeved sweater on top (or long sleeved, if it's cold). You can button just the top two buttons of the sweater, and leave the rest unbuttoned. This is a very cute, modest, slimming, and feminine look.

Oh, and go for colors and feminine patterns.

If You Have a Weight Problem, Don't say you are "too fat to Wear a Dress."

You're not. Try on a lot of plus sized dresses of various styles, and you can find a style that slims you. Wearing the right dress can make you look 30 pounds skinnier than pants or jeans. I've seen morbidly obese women in the most

beautiful dresses, and they looked very pretty. You are not “too fat to wear a dress,” no matter what your size is.

If you carry the brunt of your weight in your stomach, then try empire waist lines.. If you carry the brunt of your weight in your hips and thighs, then try dresses that go in at the waist, but float out at the hips. Also, certain patterns give the illusion of being slimmer. Find the patterns that work for you.

Some Pictures of Feminine, Modest Dresses



From a thrift store



From Ross



From Ross



Handmade cape dress



From a thrift store



From Ross



From a thrift store



(same as left) From a thrift store

Chapter Six

Coverings Professing Godliness

For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.
-1 Corinthians 11:6



Should Christian Women Wear Head Coverings?



I was a Christian for years, before I studied the head covering issue. For a long time, I didn't know that there were Christian women out there who wore head coverings. I've seen some movies with Amish people in them, but that was it. I thought the Amish wore those coverings because their church told them to - and for some of them, that is why.

Later, I learned about Mennonites, and thought they were "kind of Amish, but not quite." Again, I just thought they covered because their church told them to.

It turns out there are lots of Christian women out there, even those who are not Amish or Mennonite, who cover their heads, and they do so, because of what 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 says.

Every time I would read through the Bible, I would get uncomfortable with 1 Corinthians 11:2-16. It seemed abundantly clear to me that Christian women are supposed to cover their heads, but I didn't usually see any who did, so I assumed I must

have been misunderstanding, and I would sweep that nagging feeling under the rug, until I would get back around to that chapter in future Bible readings, again.

One day, I decided I had to study it out for myself, and I did. It was a full time, intense, two-week study, in which I did minimal housework, and put as much effort into the study that I could. Below is the conclusion I came to.

Now, I've been all over this issue, and I studied it from as many different angles as I could.

I've looked at it from the viewpoint that the covering is the woman's hair, the covering is only the spiritual covering of the husband, the covering is not for today, or that the covering is for today, and should be observed. Which is right? I don't want man's traditions, nor do I care if women covered in history. I only care about what God wants. I don't care if the church I attend agrees with it or not, and if I cover, I don't care if I'm the only one in the world to do so. If God's Word says to do it, then I'm in.

If a woman is to cover her head - what with? Don't give me man's traditions or historical settings. I just want the Word of God, and that alone.

Well ladies, let's get into the Word of God and get to the bottom of this issue, shall we? Please open your King James Bible to 1 Corinthians chapter 11, verses 2-16, or read it below:

2Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you.

3But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8For the man is not of the woman: but the woman of the man.

9Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

Look at verse 3. This is giving us the headship order. The husband is the head of the woman. There are clearly two 'heads' in the head covering Scriptures. There is the spiritual head, which is the authority, and then there's the physical head.

The spiritual head:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body." - Ephesians 5:22-23

The physical head:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head {physical head} uncovered dishonoureth her head {authority - husband}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered {on her physical head}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." 1 Corinthians 11:5-6

If the above were referring to just the spiritual/authoritative head, then why should a woman be shaved or shorn if not covered? What in the world would her hair have to do with it? Do you see the two heads? They are clearly the physical head, and the spiritual head, which stands for authority.

In verse 3, we see that the woman's husband is her spiritual head. What about unmarried women? When a woman is not married, if she is still living at home, then her father is her authority - he is the one taking care of her, and while she is under his roof, she is to submit to him. The single woman who is living on her own is not under the headship of her father, because he is no longer taking care of her - she is on her own. Therefore, until she marries, if she does, her spiritual head is Christ:

"There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband." -1 Corinthians 7:34

Let us move on. Verse four makes it clear that there are the two heads - the spiritual and physical, else one would have to seriously allegorize this verse, instead of taking it at face value. This verse also makes it clear that the head covering is not hair; else all Christian men should be bald when they pray. For a man to take off his hair when he prays or prophesies is not what this verse is obviously talking about. 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 is referring to a physical head covering that sits on top of the hair.

Now look at verses 5 and 6. In verse 5, notice that if a woman prophesies without a covering on her head, then she is

dishonoring her spiritual head - her husband. This jives perfectly with other Scriptures, such as the following:

"Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church." -1 Corinthians 14:34-35

Your women - men are being instructed here to remind their wives to stay silent in church. We wives like to discuss the sermon, and we need to do so when we are at home, not during church services. Women are to be silent in church to show submission to their husbands.

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression." -1 Timothy 2:11-14

This Scripture is referring to the same thing as 1 Corinthians 14:34-35. Women are to learn silently and continue being under the headship/subjection of their husbands. A woman is not to usurp authority over THE man - her husband. Notice it says "the man," and not men. Ladies, we are under the headship of our own husbands, and not all men. This is a family order, not a societal one:

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord." -Colossians 3:18

"Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." -Ephesians 5:22

"Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear." -1 Peter 3:1-2

Women are not to be leaders in the church. This is clear from 1 Timothy chapter 3, where we are told that church leaders are to be "the husband of one wife." Obviously, that would be a man.

Women are permitted to pray and prophesy in church, but when they do, they are to wear a head covering, showing that they are doing so under the headship of their husbands, and are still in submission to their husbands in all things:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her {physical} head uncovered dishonoureth her head {husband - authoritative head}: for that is even all one as if she were shaven."

It's a shame for women to be shaven, and it's also considered a shame for women to have short hair. A woman's hair is "a glory to her," as we see in verse 15.

In verse 6, the head covering issue goes even deeper, and gives us more clarification. We see in this verse, combined with verse 5, that it is a shame for a woman to be shaven or shorn, and it is also a shame for her not to be covered. This is clearly referring to a covering on top of the hair - "if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn."

Let's move on to verses 7-9. Here we see why women are to cover. It's because of the creation order and the headship. Adam was formed first, then Eve. Adam and Eve were both created in the image of God:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." -Genesis 1:27

Woman wasn't made directly from the clay of the earth, but was taken from man's side. She was created to be her husband's helpmeet - Women are God's gift to men - literally:

"And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." -Genesis 2:18

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." -Genesis 2:21-24

This is why the woman is to be under the headship of her husband. She was created for that purpose.

Obviously, a woman can't help her man, if she is silent all the time. We have such Scriptures as 1 Corinthians 14:35 and 1 Peter 3:1-2 (conversation doesn't mean just talking, but your conversation with the world, via your actions and attitudes as

well.)

Now, the mystery verse - verse 10. I'm going to tell you what I think that verse means...

"For this cause ought women to have power on their heads" - in other words - For this reason ought women to have authority on their heads. The reason women are to be in submission to their spiritual heads, and cover their physical heads, is because of what we just read in the preceding verses - because of the creation order, as we just discussed. The second half of verse 10 says "because of the angels." This is part of the creation order reason.

I'm not going to get really extensive with this, but read Genesis chapter 6, verse 4. These were some of the 1/3 fallen angels, who sided with Lucifer in trying to take over heaven. Lucifer/Satan, and the angels that followed him, were kicked out of the third heaven. (But still have access, see the first part of Job, until in Revelation when the devil and his angels are fully kicked out.) Some of those fallen angels copulated with women, and created demonic half-breeds. This is also partially why Noah's flood occurred. Noah was chosen for two reasons - 1) He walked with God, and 2) He was pure in his generations (didn't have a corrupted bloodline). Ham's wife, however, was not, but I'm not going to get into that today. I believe the post-flood giants came through a gene carried by Ham's wife.

Angels watch us - both the fallen ones and the godly ones do. The fallen angels see the head coverings on us, and see that we are showing that we are in submission to our spiritual head - our husbands. In the Bible, the word "watchers" can be used for angels. You'll see that was a term in the book of Daniel, for example.

Moving on... Verses 11 and 12 remind us that yes, Adam was created first, and woman was formed from Adam's rib, but also that men come from women, via childbirth. These verses go wonderfully with the following:

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." -Galatians 3:28

Women are not viewed as less than men in God's eyes, and they shouldn't be in our eyes either. For order to remain, authoritative order must be established. The husband is not better than the wife. Instead, he is just given a different role. Husbands are commanded in the Bible to love their wives as Christ loves the church:

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;" -Ephesians 5:25

Husbands are not to be bitter towards their wives:

"Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them." - Colossians 3:19

If husbands don't treat their wives the way God desires them to, then their prayers could be hindered:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered." -1 Peter 3:7

Ladies, we have it easy. We just have to be our husband's helpmeets and submit to them. But the husbands are commanded to love us just as Christ loved the church, are not allowed to be bitter toward us, and if they mistreat us, their prayers could be hindered!

Obviously, we are fallen creatures, and we mess up. If you feel your husband isn't being the Scriptural husband, then take it to God, and don't nag your other half. Listen - you just need to focus on YOU following God, and being the submissive helpmeet God desires you to be. When you truly do this, and give this up to God, you will see miracles worked in your family. God will honor you for honoring Him, and He will speak to your husband's heart. Have faith, follow the Lord, and be patient.

Next verse - verse 13. This verse tells us to judge in ourselves if it's proper for a woman to pray to God without her head covered. If we paid attention to verses 5 and 6, then we would all judge in ourselves that it is not comely, or proper, for women to pray to God uncovered.

Verses 14 and 15 are parenthetical verses to answer the question put forth in verse 13. In the example, it is shown how we see that it is not proper for men to have long hair, or for women to have short hair. This is to be compared to head coverings. In other words, just as it's not proper for men to have long hair, and for women to have short hair, it is also not proper for women to be uncovered. Woman's hair is not to replace the head covering. The woman is to have two coverings - her long hair, and a covering on top of the hair. This is evident from verse 6:

"For if the woman be not covered {with a head covering}, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Even with the above explanation, verse 15 still trips many people up. I will quote it below, but with the Greek word for covering inserted. I'm going to show you something very interesting here:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering {pe-rē-bo'-lī-on}."

Note: Notice the above verse says a covering, not the covering. The hair is a covering, but the head covering that sits on top of the hair is the covering.

The Greek word for covering in verse 15, is different than the Greek word for covering in the rest of the chapter. All other occurrences of covering in chapter 11 is kā-tā-kā-lū'p-tō, which literally means "to cover up." You can study this for yourself online at BlueLetterBible.org.

While forms of kata/katakalupto are used for our word cover, covered, and covering in chapter 11, the Greek for the word covering in verse 15 is different. That word is perebolion, which literally means 'a covering thrown around, like a veil.'

This is why the King James Translators put an alternate translation for perebolion in the margin, which was "veil." Using the King James Translators' alternate translation for perebolion, verse 15 would read as follows:

"But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a veil."

A veil wraps around. Long hair wraps around our shoulders. A head covering sits on our head, and covers.

If we are intellectually honest, then we have to admit that verse 15 isn't telling us 'hey, don't worry about covering your head. If your hair is long, that counts as a covering.' This cannot be the case, for an entirely different Greek word is being used. Our hair is a natural veiling, but we are supposed to wear a head covering on top of our hair, and that is our head covering.

Now - verse 16... It may be easier to understand verse 16 if we read it straight from verse 13, without reading the parenthetical verses 14 and 15. If we did this, it would say the following:

"Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered? But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God."

When read this way, it appears that there is no church custom for women to pray uncovered.

When Should Women Cover?

We know we are most certainly supposed to cover in church, and while praying and prophesying, therefore we can conclude that it's best to cover all of the time, since the Bible elsewhere tells us to "pray without ceasing." Further, prophesying doesn't just mean foretelling the future, but can also mean teaching from the Scriptures. Do you and your husband share what you've learned from the Bible with each other, and other people? Do you have devotions and Bible studies with your children? Do you speak to them about God? Then you should have your head covered. It

sounds to me like the best course of action is to have your head covered at all times, so that you are always ready.

Covering is a submission and heart issue. I don't believe that we have to cover while in the shower, doing certain sports and strenuous exercise, or while asleep. I believe that the head covering is for public dressing. It is an outward symbol, showing our submission to our husbands. The Lord doesn't need that symbol, as he sees our hearts. The symbol is there as a sign to the angels, and as a testimony in this fallen world.

What about maidens, and unmarried women?

I believe they should be covered as well, to show their submission to their current heads - being their fathers, or Christ directly, as discussed earlier in this article.

How much of the head or hair should the covering cover?

We are not told in the Bible how much to cover, or what type of covering to use. From the covering ladies I have conversed with over the Internet, the type of covering used seems to be a personal thing between the woman, her husband, and God. Some women feel that God has called them to cover all of their hair, so they do. I don't feel such a calling.

Scripture seems to allude to woman's hair showing. I lean toward the side that the woman can choose which covering she wants, just as long as it's on top of the head, and it can be seen as a head covering, and not just as some cute hair accessory.

1 Corinthians 11:15 tells us that a woman's hair is a glory to her, and we see elsewhere in Scripture that Christians are to let their

lights shine. I can see a parallel here, but not a spiritual or salvation one. If my hair is my glory, why would I cover it?

Some people would say that I should cover it for modest reasons. Here's what the Bible says in regards to modesty and hair:

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array" -1 Timothy 2:9

"Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel" -1 Peter 3:3

Why would women's hairstyles even be discussed at all, if all hair were to be covered? It'd be a non-issue, wouldn't it?

Let's get Some Head Coverings...

At Wal-Mart, you can get a square bandana for 1 dollar, the last I checked. Bandanas and scarves are usually near the purses and belts; often near the changing rooms.

Take a square bandana, and fold it in half into a triangle, and then put it on your hair, but instead of tying the ends under your chin (such as you might do if you were going out on a windy day) tie the ends under your hair. Use a few clippie barrettes to secure it, and all of your head coverings on. They work wonderfully.

Or, you could use a long, rectangular scarf. I've seen some very pretty ones at Wal-Mart for about 3-5 dollars. With a scarf, you

can better adjust how wide of a covering you want. Here's how I suggest you wear one - but this is just my preference:

- 1) Squish the thickness of the scarf so that it's thinner.
- 2) Now tie the ends under your hair, as if you were tying on a headband.
- 3) Next, stretch out the scarf on top of your head, until you get it as wide as you'd like it.

Wal-Mart also carries some head coverings in their hair accessories section from time to time. They call it a wide headband, but these generally cover all of the top of the head, and down the back a bit. I've also gotten head coverings like this from dollar stores, and Alco.

If you would prefer to wear ready-made head coverings, you can get some beautiful ones from GarlandsofGrace.com.

What if Your Husband Doesn't Like Your Head Coverings?

There are certain head covering styles my husband doesn't like, as he says I look like a gypsy, or chemo patient in them. My husband prefers coverings that also enhance my femininity. I'd say most men probably prefer that. I brought up a few head covering sales sites online, with lots of pictures, and asked my husband to please pick out the styles he likes. He mostly picked out convertible covers, and the bandanna triangle types. I wear styles he likes. I may try a new style from time to time and ask him what he thinks. If he doesn't like it, then I don't wear that style.

Some husbands are more uncomfortable with their wives covering, and don't even like the convertible coverings. In this case, try a wide headband. Most husband like that, because it is very girly.

Other Head Covering Scriptures

I've seen people use Genesis 24:65 and Isaiah 47:1-3 as some supporting Scriptures:

"For she had said unto the servant, What man is this that walketh in the field to meet us? And the servant had said, It is my master: therefore she took a vail, and covered herself." - Genesis 24:65

"Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers. Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man." -Isaiah 47:1-3

Here is another Scripture, which gels more with 1 Corinthians 11. It is the following:

"And the priest shall set the woman before the LORD, and uncover the woman's head, and put the offering of memorial in her hands, which is the jealousy offering: and the priest shall have in his hand the bitter water that causeth the curse" - Numbers 5:18

This is referring to a woman who is accused of committing adultery.

Between Numbers 5:18 and Isaiah 47:1-3, we see that uncovering a woman's head was considered shameful. This goes with the following:

"But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered." -1 Corinthians 11:5-6

Some Head Covering Pictures



From a dollar store



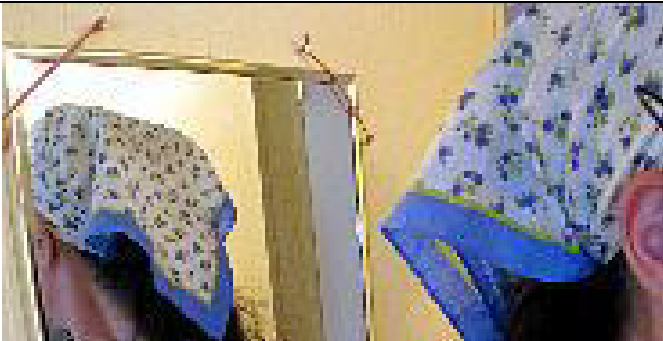
From Wal-Mart



From Alco



From GarlandsofGrace.com



A bandanna



A large, square scarf, or tichel

Chapter Seven

Homemakers Professing Godliness



To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. –Titus 2:5

I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. –1 Timothy 5:14

A Godly Woman's Heart

She desires to serve, bless, and spread joy. Her home is always warm and welcoming. It is comfortable, modestly decorated, and clean. The environment is one of relaxation, happiness, and security. Often, there is the irresistible smell of some good thing bubbling away in the kitchen. She may be baking bread, slow cooking a beef stew, or making a special treat.

Her smile lights up the room. You see her face, and you see what Christian joy truly looks like. Her love for her husband and children are obvious. Her husband looks forward to coming home to her each evening, and her children love to be in her presence.

She has so much work to do; yet it is done without complaint, and she always has time to encourage her husband, and hug her children.

Her heart is hidden in God. She loves others because God loves her, and she loves God.

Let us strive to be a Godly woman on the outside, and to have the heart of a Godly woman inside.

“Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.” -Proverbs 32:11

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” -Galatians 5:22-23

The joyful Christian homemaker needs the Lord as her first priority. Next, she needs to check her attitude. Does she have a meek attitude of servitude?

"Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." -Matthew 11:29

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye." -Colossians 3:12-13

"To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men." -Titus 3:2

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom." -James 3:13

Meekness and Wisdom.

When the joyful Christian homemaker fulfills her God-given duties in the home, and with the proper attitude, she is looking well to the ways of her household. Her children call her blessed, and her husband praises her.

"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." -Proverbs 31:27-28

Her mouth obeys the law of kindness. She has godly wisdom. She serves with joy, and when she speaks, she is kind.

"She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." -Proverbs 31:26

She doesn't nag or complain to her husband:

"It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman." -Proverbs 21:19

"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." -Proverbs 27:15

She is a keeper of her home and submits to her husband:

"To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." -Titus 2:5

"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully." -1 Timothy 5:14

She trains, teaches, and keeps her children with her:

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." -Proverbs 29:15

She wears beautiful, flowing, modest clothes (like dresses):

"In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel [katastole], with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;" -1 Timothy 2:9

Katastole - According to BlueLetterBible.com - 1) a lowering, letting down 2) a garment let down, dress, attire

"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God." -Deuteronomy 22:5

She covers her head as a symbol of her submission to her husband and the Lord:

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God. Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head. But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven. For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.” -1 Corinthians 11:3-6

She may or may not be beautiful, but she is wise:

“As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.” -Proverbs 11:22

“Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” -Proverbs 31:30

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” -Proverbs 9:10

She does not partake in gossip, tale bearing, slander, or other forms of frowardness of the tongue:

“Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the LORD.” -Leviticus 19:16

“Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.” -Proverbs 26:20

“The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.” -Proverbs 10:32

“And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.” -1 Timothy 5:13

The joyful Christian homemaker described in this chapter takes her job of taking care of her husband, children, and house very seriously, and does her best to bless them, as if she were doing her domestic duties unto the Lord Himself.

She is not idle, for she knows that idle time leads to idol time. She instills this principle into her children as well.

She knows that nobody and no day is perfect. She greets each day as a brand new day, with brand new unknowns. She looks to the Lord as her source of peace, comfort, joy, and wisdom, and faces each day with a smile, knowing that her Redeemer liveth, and He careth for her.

Keeping a Clean Home

Keeping a clean home should not be a full time job in itself. Certainly, to maintain any resemblance of clean means a lot of time and work, but if you do so smartly, it doesn't have to be super labor intensive, or too time consuming.

If you have children, they should have chores, and chip in to help clean the house. See the chapter called “Mothers Professing Godliness,” and the section about children's chores there.

A Basic House Cleaning can be Accomplished in Five Simple Steps

Materials/supplies needed:

- Multi-purpose spray cleaner (Mix half white vinegar with half water, and you have a great cleaner)

- Wash rags/sponges/paper towels
- Duster
- Toilet bowl cleaner or alternate homemade cleaner
- Toilet brush
- Broom and dustpan
- Mop
- A mop bucket with steaming hot water with bleach or vinegar added (no need for detergents, solutions, or soaps)

Before you begin, make sure things are picked up and put away. Also make sure all dishes are done, and the trash is taken out.

STEP ONE: Dust

Grab your duster, and dust every room in the house. Start at the top of the room (fans, tops of pictures, shelves) and work your way to the bottom of the room (ex. baseboards).

STEP TWO: Wipe Down

Get your multi purpose cleaner, and wash rags/sponges/paper towels, and go to each room, spraying and polishing mirrors, TV screens, and computer screens. Also, wipe down all tables, counters, and sinks. When you are doing this in the bathrooms, don't forget to wipe down the tubs/showers. Wipe down the bathrooms last.

STEP THREE: Gleaming Thrones

Put toilet bowl cleaner in all toilets. While the cleaner is sitting, use your spray cleaner to clean the outside of the commodes. Don't forget to scrub the bases as well. Then, use a toilet bowl brush, and scrub the inside of those thrones, and make 'em gleam.

STEP FOUR: Hard Floors

Sweep and mop all hard floors

STEP FIVE: Rugs and Carpets

Vacuum all rugs and carpets

All done.

When to Clean the Home

Some people like to have a cleaning marathon day, where they do all of the above cleaning on one day, and just get it out of the way. I personally don't like to do that. Instead, I divide my house cleaning up between four week days. I take the weekends off. I take one week day for appointments, running errands, groceries, etc.

Here is a step-by-step process of how to divide your cleaning up between four days:

1. Write a list of all of your main cleaning tasks. Do not include deep cleaning, such as spring cleaning duties. We'll get to those in a few moments.

A sample list may look like the following:

Dust

Clean mirrors and TV/computer screens

Wipe down all counters, tables, and other surfaces

Clean sinks
Clean bathtubs and showers
Clean toilets
Sweep and mop hard floors
Vacuum rugs and carpets

2. Next, decide which days of the week you want to do your cleaning tasks. I suggest you assign just four days a week, and use the fifth weekday for running errands and getting groceries, and take the weekends off. For example, if you decided that you like getting groceries on Fridays, and you want to take the weekends off, then you can assign your cleaning tasks on Monday-Thursday. Your Task Cleaning Routine may look similar to the following:

Mondays - Dust; Clean mirrors, TV/computer screens; Clean all kitchen and laundry appliances

Tuesdays - Wipe all tables and counters; Clean sinks; change all trashes

Wednesdays - Clean tubs and showers; Clean toilets

Thursdays - Sweep and mop; Vacuum

Fridays - Change all trashes; Run errands and get groceries

If you have pets, then you may want to add changing the litter box, and/or cleaning cages to your cleaning lists for Mondays and Fridays.

What About Laundry?

Some people have one or two days a week for laundry day(s). Others don't have any assigned laundry time, they just wash clothes when they run out. I prefer to have a laundry schedule, and do a bit of laundry each day - Monday-Friday. Why not try

this, and add it to your cleaning routine? Below is a sample laundry schedule:

Mondays - All sheets/bedding and other laundry

Tuesdays - Towels, rags, washcloths

Wednesdays - Younger children's laundry (if your children are older, then all girls do their own laundry on this day)

Thursdays - Your and your husband's laundry

Fridays - Older children do their own laundry - you supervise them if needed (or if all your children are older, boys do their laundry on this day)

Deep Cleaning, Organizing, Decluttering, and Projects

Now that you have a cleaning and laundry routine in place, what about spring cleaning, decluttering, and organization projects? I personally never do a spring cleaning. Instead, I make a list of spring cleaning projects, and work on these projects a little bit, here and there throughout the year.

Make a Projects List

On this list, include deep cleaning, organization projects, decluttering projects if needed, etc. Then, assign yourself one or two days a week to work on one or more of the projects on your list. You may want to work on projects every Wednesday, or every Wednesday and Friday. This depends on which days would work best for your schedule.

Putting it all Together

Now that you have created cleaning, laundry, and project lists, why not put them all together into the ultimate cleaning

routine? Your complete cleaning routine may now look like the following:

Mondays - All sheets/bedding and other laundry; Dust; Clean mirrors, TV/computer screens; Clean all kitchen and laundry appliances

Tuesdays - Towels, rags, washcloth laundry; Wipe all tables and counters; Clean sinks; change all trashes

Wednesdays - Younger children's laundry (or older girls do their own); Clean tubs and showers; Clean toilets; Project

Thursdays - Your and your husband's laundry; Sweep and mop; Vacuum

Fridays - Older children do their own laundry (or just older boys do their own laundry); Change all trashes; Run errands and get groceries; Project

Don't Forget Room Chores, Table Chores, and House Tidy Times

In addition to your cleaning and laundry tasks, you also need to do your room chores when you awake each morning. A room chore routine may look like the following:

Straighten bedside tables

Air the bed

Get dressed and prettied for the day

Tidy up bedroom and bathroom

Make the bed after breakfast

Don't forget table chores. These are the chores that need to be done after each meal. Have your children do these chores with you after each meal, and table chores will be a snap. Example table chores:

Clear table and put away leftovers
Wash dishes
Wipe table, counters, and stove
Straighten chairs and sweep the floor
Take out the trash, if needed

Doing a Quick House Tidy

A Quick House Tidy simply means you are taking about five minutes to tidy up the house. I like to do this in the mid to late mornings, when homeschool is done in the afternoons, and at night before bed. Below is a step-by-step Quick House Tidy routine:

1. Start in the bathroom closest to the end of your house – let's say it's the master bathroom. Throw away trash, and put things away, and then wet a paper towel and quickly wipe the sink and counter, then finish by wiping the toilet. Use a toilet brush to swish, if needed. I only do the wiping down and optional swishing in my morning tidies.
2. Move on to the master bedroom. Make the bed, straighten the bedside tables and dresser. Put things away.
3. Go through the kitchen, dining area, and living room. Put things away, throw away trash, straighten chairs and furniture, put away clutter from surfaces, go through mail and papers, etc. Don't bother wiping down the kitchen, as that should be done after each meal already, and therefore shouldn't be needed during a Quick House Tidy.
4. Check the children's rooms, and have them tidy them up, if needed. Help the younger children.

5. Go through the hall and other areas. Put away shoes, pick things up off the floor and put away, etc.
6. Go to the other bathroom, and throw away trash, and put things away, and then wet a paper towel and quickly wipe the sink and counter, then finish by wiping the toilet. Use a toilet brush to swish, if needed. I only do the wiping down and optional swishing in my morning tidies.
7. Walk through the house, and see if anything else catches your eye that you can quickly take care of.

Daily Cleaning

Your weekly cleaning is via the cleaning routine we put together, where you have specific tasks for each week day, four days a week.

Daily cleaning includes Quick House Tidies, along with a few other things. Each morning, afternoon, or evening, do the following. This Daily Cleaning need only be done once a day:

1. Quick House Tidy
2. Dust all main living areas, including the TV screen
3. Vacuum all main living areas and all high traffic areas

During your daily cleaning slot is a good time to add in some of your other work. For example, your Daily Cleaning list may look like the following:

1. Quick House Tidy
2. Dust
3. Vacuum
4. Mondays and Fridays – Clean animal cages, and/or litter box; Tuesdays – Bake bread; Wednesdays – Do a special cleaning project; Thursdays – Do office work – bills, schedule, things like that
5. Assigned cleaning chores for the day

If you homeschool your children, this is a good time for them to do silent reading, while you are doing steps 1-4 above, and then they can do their assigned cleaning chores, while you do step 5.

Sometimes I do all of the list at one time each day, and sometimes I break it up into a few chunks during two different time slots during the day.

Schedule It

Some people don't like schedules. If you don't like it, then feel free to call it a routine. If you don't like routines, then call it a checklist. Whatever you call it, as a homemaker, you need one.

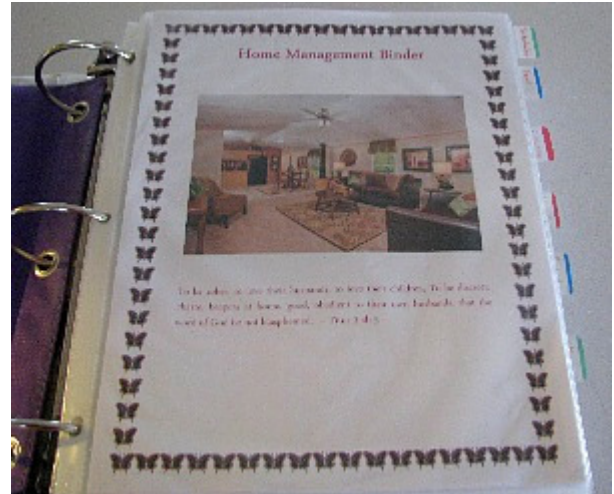
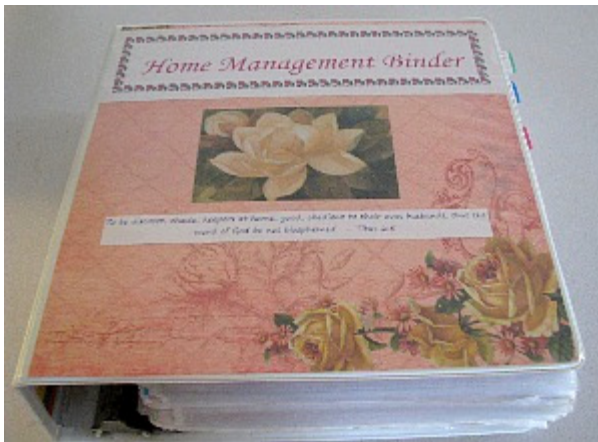
If you have children at home, then I suggest you make a Master Schedule, in which you have yourself, as well as each of your children scheduled on it. Remember what we studied in the chapter "Mothers Professing God?" We need to make sure our children are not left to themselves, and including them on our Master Schedules helps with that.

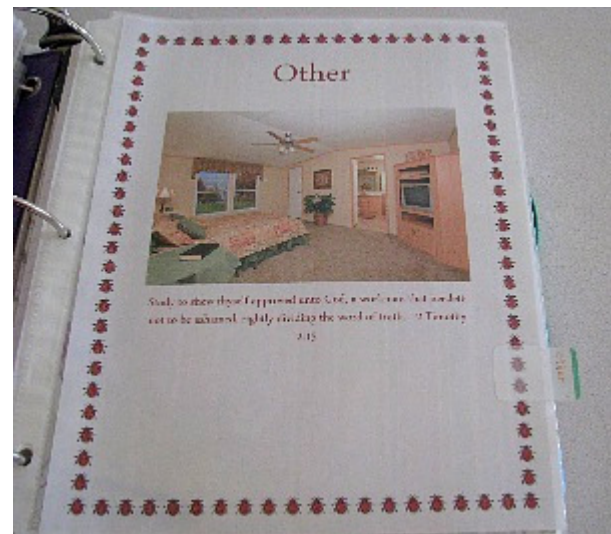
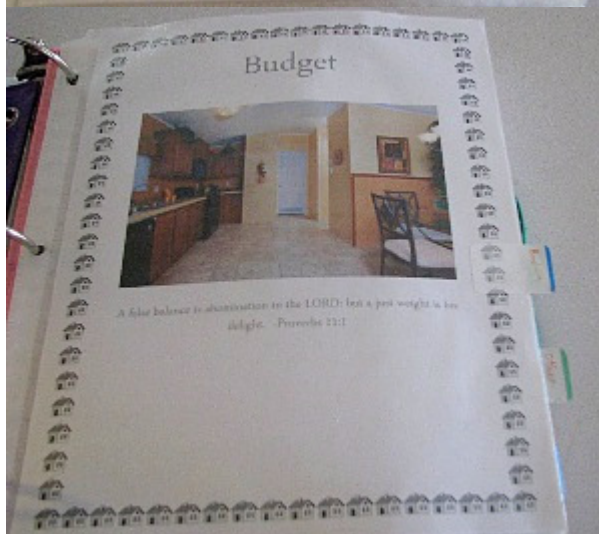
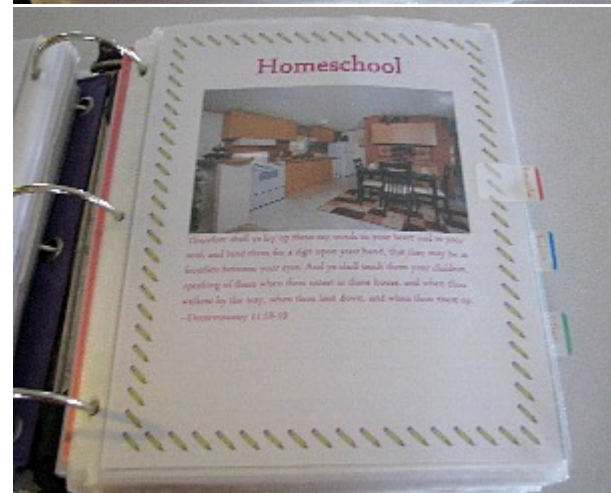
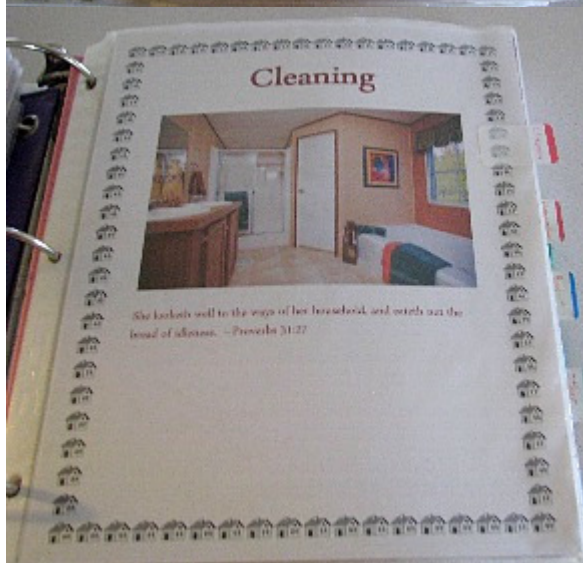
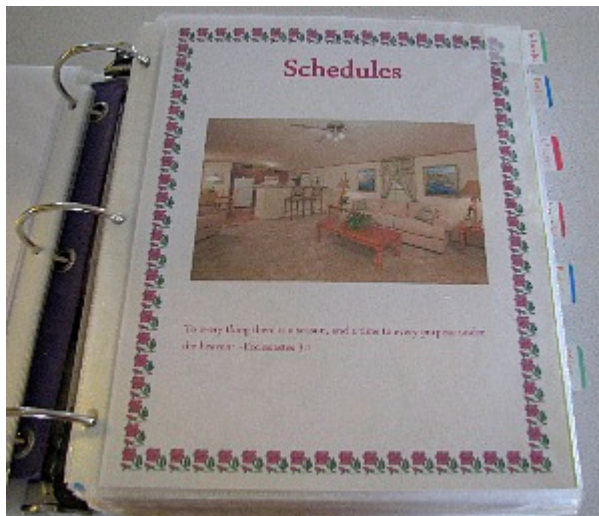
I suggest you keep your schedule in a three ring binder. I call my three ring binder my Home Management Binder, or HMB, for short. My HMB not only contains my master schedule, but it also houses some of my favorite cooking recipes, homeschool info,

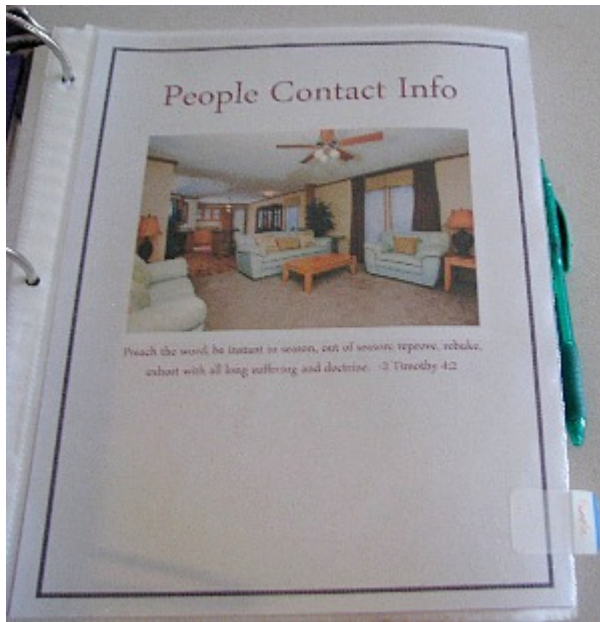
cleaning routines and chore checklists for myself and my children, and more. My HMB contains all the info I utilize day to day in my homemaker tasks.

I believe every homemaker should have some type of binder, notebook, or filing system to keep their homemaking helps in. Every woman's HMB will be different. You decide what you want and need in there, and organize it from there.

My HMB changes often, but below are some pictures of my HMB from a tour I gave of it on my blog, on May 28, 2012:







I have tabbed folder dividers in my Menu and People Contact Info sections to better organize my things in there. Inside my Budget section, I keep a zipper pouch, and that is where I keep our bills awaiting payment.

As you've noticed, I have a pretty title page for each section of my HMB, with divider tabs on each section page. The cover and spine of the binder are also decorated and pretty. I do this, because I like my HMB pretty. It inspires and motivates me.

The writing you see on each of the above section pages are Scriptures I chose to go with each section. The pictures are interior house pictures I found online that I really like, and that are in "my style" of décor.

As you can see, my Home Management Binder is personalized just for me. Each week I sit down and write a out a menu of all meals, treats, deserts and snacks we are going to have for the week, and assign those for each day.

I then can take a look at my menu, and use it to help me compile a grocery list. I love doing this, because I don't have the "five o'clock freak out," of wondering what in the world is

for supper. I already know, because it was all planned out, and I already have all ingredients on hand, because I synchronized my menu with my grocery list for the week.

Each year, when I plan out the new homeschool curricula and reading lists, I can access the previous year's records from the homeschool section of my HMB, and use that as a pattern to create the next year's work. My Home Management Binder is helpful for me in so many ways. Not one day goes by, where I don't have it open, and am using it.

When I go on vacations, or weekend getaways, the binder goes with me – there have been a few occasions where some of my recipes from my binder have come in handy.

Otherwise, my thick and heavy binder resides on my kitchen counter. It doesn't get carried around with me, or moved around. My kitchen is my homemaking headquarters, and my HMB is the “brain.”

Taking Care of the Temple

As you recall from chapter one – “Do You Profess Godliness?” the Christian's body is a temple for the Holy Spirit. Therefore, not only should we keep it spiritually clean, but we should also respect these bodies the Lord knit together in our mother's wombs, and treat them well.

This means regular exercise, eating right, and not abusing the temple.

We shouldn't put junk into our bodies – nicotine, excessive sugar and caffeine, drugs, alcohol – these things can harm our bodies.

While the Scriptures tell us it's okay to feast and celebrate with delicious dainties, this is not to be a daily occurrence. When

you read your Bible, pay special attention to what the people ate.

Keep in mind that their breads were whole grain, and fermented – basically sourdough. Our fluff breads of today are not the healthy breads of the Bible. Even homemade yeast breads aren't good enough.

Their milks were likely fermented in forms like kefir and yogurt, because they didn't have refrigeration like we do.

Please stick with only unsweetened, whole grain sprouted, or sourdough breads. And then, keep those limited, if you have any weight gain issues.

Make animal proteins the center of all your meals. When you are eating high fat, eat low carb. When you are eating more carbs (try to stay below 45 grams per meal) then eat very low fat. This way, your body only has to worry about burning one fuel (only fat, or only carbs) instead of two.

Also, and this isn't scripturally mandatory, but a great suggestion – try to stick to the clean animal meats as described in the book of Leviticus. Under the New Covenant, we do not have to adhere to the Levitical laws of eating; but generally, the clean meats are the healthy ones, while the unclean ones – not so much.

Add exercise to your schedule in your Home Management Binder. It is so good for you. Just try to do 20-50 minutes a day, five days a week. Take the weekends off.

Oh, and before I forget to tell you... Remember from the chapter "Wives Professing Godliness," we are to stretch our husband's hard earned money? This often means making things by scratch.

Learn how to make laundry detergent, bread, and most of your meals by scratch. This doesn't mean you have to make all these and more from scratch all the time, but you should acquire the skills, should you need them. I often use a store bought laundry detergent, but I have Fels Naptha soap bars, Borax, Baking Soda, and Washing soda on hand, for times when I make homemade detergent.

I no longer have a dishwasher (nor microwave – I don't like microwaves). When I used to use a dishwasher, I would make sure to have sea salt (which I always have), borax, baking soda, and vinegar handy, for times when I ran out of dishwasher detergent, so that I could whip up some homemade.

Cooking from scratch is the most important, here. Not only should you educate yourself on cooking from scratch, but also I highly suggest you learn to forage, and also plant an edible garden. These are additional ways to not only stretch the dollar, but also to eat more healthfully.

With the Internet, libraries, and friends, it's not hard to find resources for learning all of the above.

If you have a Tractor Supply store near you, they usually have some fantastic books on a rack, which teach all, or much of the above.

As you learn these things, and get good recipes, store them in your HMB, so that should you ever need them, you don't have to wrack your brain and hope you remember it right. You have it written and secure.

Concluding this Book

In closing this book, I'd like to encourage you on your Christian walk, and in your role, as laid out in the Bible. Living your role, and living Scripturally means you and your family will be significantly different than the average family. You need to be prepared for ridicule, persecution, and being put down. However, you also need to be prepared for joy, happiness, fulfillment, and blessings from on high.

When we choose God and His ways over the world and it's ways, we are abundantly blessed – beyond measure. When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our hearts.

“Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” –Psalm 37:4-5

Question It

There are many things not covered in this book, which I'd like to draw your attention to. Firstly, don't take anyone's word for what the Bible teaches – no one's. You MUST read and learn from the King James Bible for yourself. Doctrines taught by most churches, which are incorrect, include:

- Pre-tribulation rapture
- The celebration of Christmas
- The celebration of Easter

-The celebration of most other holidays
-etc.

Please do your research. Praise the Lord daily, and God bless you, sisters in Christ.

If you enjoyed this book, or it blessed you in any way, please share it. You may give away electronic or printed copies, just don't change this book, or charge anything for it. It must remain unchanged, and free.



"She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness." -Proverbs 31:27